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RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

SWORD EXERCISE

OF THE

CAVALRY.

By His Majesty's Command.

Adjutant General's Office,
1st December, 1796.

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WAR OFFICE, PRINTED;

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Adjutant General's Office,
1ſt December, 1796.

THE following Rules and Regulations for the Sword Exerciſe, are, by His MAJESTY's Command, to be obſerved and practiſed by the Cavalry Corps in general, in His MAJESTY's Service.

By Command of Field Marſhal,
His Royal Highneſs
The DUKE of YORK.

WILLIAM FAWCETT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is His MAJESTY's pleafure, that the ufe and exercife of the Sword fhall in future be regularly taught at the drills of the Cavalry, as an effential part of the inftruction of a horfeman; and, in order to eftablifh uniformity of execution on a proper fyftem, the following regulations muft be ftrictly obferved.

The firft principles are to be acquired and fhewn on foot, under the direction of the adjutant, until fuch time as the fquads are in a fufficient degree of forwardnefs to execute their leffons on horfeback, when it will become the particular duty of the riding-mafter to inftruct them in the mode by which horfemanfhip and the ufe of the fword are combined.

His

His MAJESTY's Regulations for the Formations, Movements, and Field Exercife, of the Cavalry, do not fuffer the fmalleft alteration in the practice of this fyftem, which is calculated to give the horfeman, when acting fingly, that decided advantage over an enemy, which horfemanfhip, and a confcious fuperiority in the ufe of his fword, muft always produce.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

SWORD EXERCISE.

PART I.

THESE Regulations for the management of the Sword are laid down under the heads of OFFENSIVE and DEFENSIVE, whether with reſpect to Cavalry or Infantry; the whole being compriſed in the following Movements:

I. OFFENSIVE, ſix Cuts.

II. DEFENSIVE againſt *Cavalry*, eight Guards.

III. The POINT as applied generally.

IV. The CUT and GUARD againſt *Infantry*.

I. CUTS.

THERE are only ſix ways of directing the Edge of the blade; therefore the different parts of the body, which may be expoſed by the unſkilfulneſs of a ſwordſman, are not to be (erroneouſly) conceived as admitting of ſo many diſtinct Cuts. The action of the wriſt and ſhoulder alone directs the blade: and they admit but of ſix movements, from which every cut is derived, wherever may be its particular application to the body. The direction of the ſtroke muſt depend on the openings given by the adverſary, and be regulated by judgment, and experience in the uſe of the weapon.

To make a Cut with effect, and at the ſame time without expoſing the perſon, there are two points which principally demand attention. The firſt is to acquire a facility in giving motion to the arm by means of the wriſt and ſhoulder, without bending the elbow; for in bending the elbow, the ſword-arm is expoſed; a circumſtance of which the opponent will ever be ready to take his advantage, as a cut in that quarter may be made with the greateſt ſecurity; and if it be well directed, with the moſt fatal effect, as it at once decides the iſſue of the conteſt. The Cuts III. and IV. are particularly calculated to apply againſt the wriſt.

The next object is to attain a correctneſs in applying the edge in the direction of the blade, otherwiſe it will

turn

turn in the hand; and as in that caſe the flat part muſt receive the whole force of the blow, it will in all likelihood be ſhivered to pieces.

From want of habit in the exerciſe of the wriſt in the common occupations of life, the weight of the ſword will at firſt be found extremely irkſome. The action of the arm bears no compariſon with that quickneſs of which the wriſt is ſuſceptible; for the motions of the arm are ſo wide and circuitous, that they are eaſily counteracted; from which, in a clear point of view, the ſtricteſt perſeverance will be found neceſſary, in order to attain perfection in the firſt leſſons; which are merely confined to acquiring a ſuppleneſs in the wriſt and ſhoulder; as without this indiſpenſible requiſite, no perſon can become a good ſwordſman.

II. GUARDS.

OF the eight Guards againſt cavalry, five are for the protection of the rider and his horſe in front, and three for the purpoſe of covering them, when under the neceſſity of retiring.

The principal poſition is diſtinguiſhed from the reſt by the term *Guard*, and the remaining ſeven by that of *Protect*. The *Guard* covers the head, ſhoulders, and ſword-arm, from the cuts I. and II. as likewiſe from

thoſe of III. and IV. requiring, however, in the latter, a trifling inclination of the arm downwards: It is not only a poſition which affords greater ſecurity than any other, but is of ſuch a nature as to render all the movements neceſſary to be made from it, eaſy, and of quick execution.

There are two other poſitions for the defence of the horſeman in front; namely, the *Left* and *Right Protect*. They conſiſt ſimply in moving the ſword-arm to the left and right of the bridle-hand. Theſe Guards are calculated to give protection equally againſt the thruſt, as againſt the cuts V. and VI.; and either in making or receiving a charge, where the compactneſs of the body of cavalry does not admit of uſing the edge of the ſabre, without danger to your own line. They are alſo well adapted in a moment of general confuſion (which always takes place in the ſhock of two conflicting bodies) to afford a great degree of ſecurity, as by a quick tranſverſe of the ſword-arm, three or four times repeated from left to right, the blade can ſcarcely fail to meet whatever may be pointed in that direction, before it can reach the body.

The poſition generally known by the term *Hanging Guard*, protects the horſe's head on the *near* ſide; and on the *off* ſide, it is covered by a guard very much reſembling the *Right Protect*.

The firſt of the three retiring guards is for the protection of the bridle-arm, and left ſide to the rear; the ſecond for that of the right arm and ſhoulder: the laſt, which

which is the *St. George*, concludes the eight Guards, and is intended for the protection of the back of the head. The Guards to the rear are equally ſimple and efficacious with thoſe laid down for protection in front: but the mode of carrying them into effect differs from the general principles of this ſyſtem, as will appear from the drill exerciſe. Comparatively with the great variety of movements theſe Guards are calculated to meet, they are but few in number, and therefore more to be relied on, than when the defence depends on various circumvolutions of the blade, which in the firſt place, cannot be performed within ſo ſhort a time; and in the ſecond, muſt ever be rendered more uncertain, from the difficulty of execution.

III. *The* POINT.

THE *thruſt* has only one mode of execution, whether applied to cavalry, or infantry: but a greater degree of caution is required in its application againſt cavalry, than againſt infantry; for if the *point* is parried, the adverſary's blade gets within your guard, which is not to be recovered again in time, as with a ſmall ſword; the weapon being too heavy to be managed with the requiſite degree of quickneſs.

The caſe is different in acting againſt infantry, as the perſons, againſt whom you then direct your *point*, are

are ſo much below your own level, that the weight of your ſword is not felt; conſequently it is managed with greater facility, than with an extended arm carried above the level of the ſhoulder. Therefore in many inſtances againſt infantry, the *point* may be uſed with as much effect as the edge, and with the ſame degree of ſecurity.

IV. *The* CUT *and* GUARD *againſt* INFANTRY.

IN that part of the ſword exerciſe which relates ſolely to its application againſt infantry, there are three movements, the *point*, the *parry*, and the *cut*. The execution of the two latter movements differs from the mode laid down in the general rules for practice. This difference is occaſioned by the relative ſituation of the contending parties.

A perſon on horſeback is elevated ſo much above thoſe acting on foot, that it is neceſſary for him to bend his elbow, in order to take a ſweep to give his cut with effect: and this may be ſecurely done, as the ſword-arm is not expoſed in the conteſt. The thruſt of a bayonet is parried, whether made on the near, or off-ſide, by forcing it backward or forward, as circumſtances may direct; only it is to be obſerved, that the parry is made with the back of the blade, inſtead of expoſing the edge.

DRILL ON FOOT.

THAT a recruit may be more readily brought to comprehend the intention and object of the different directions in which he will be required to carry his blade, and at the fame time in order to enable the drill officer to judge how far the motions are accurately executed; the recruit muft be placed facing a wall, at the diftance of fix feet, but not fo as to touch it with his fword when drawn.

Upon the wall, immediately in front of his pofition, defcribe a circle of two feet diameter, and full four feet from the ground, then draw two lines, which will divide the circle into four parts, each line being drawn diagonally; then a third line, forming an horizontal diameter: on the different points of thofe lines place the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, as reprefented in *Plate* I. *fig.* 1.

This will ferve to convey the idea of that fpace, which an antagonift would occupy in point of height, and the recruit is to direct all his movements to it, upon that fuppofition; the figures denoting the fix diftinct cuts of the fabre, which are to be applied in that given fpace.

His pofition muft be erect, with his body fquare to the front, his head kept up, and eyes directed to the object before him. His heels two inches afunder,

 and

and his arms hanging without conſtraint, keeping the points of his elbows back, his right hand flat on his thigh, his thumb to be on a line with the ſeam of his breeches; the left hand in the ſame manner, with his fingers on the ſcabbard to keep the ſword ſteady, and in readineſs to be drawn.

SWORD-KNOTS.

NO ſword muſt be made uſe of without having a ſword-knot attached to it. It enables a perſon inſtantly to recover his weapon, if forced from his graſp; and in drills, prevents accidents which are liable to occur by the ſword eſcaping from the hand, when not reſtrained.

The ſword-knot is to be made of leather, not too thick, but capable of ſhaping itſelf to the wriſt; yet it is not intended ever to confine the action of the wriſt, which it would do if drawn tight; but it is to be of ſuch a length as to admit of the ſword-hilt ſhifting in the hand, which is neceſſary in giving point, and indeed in almoſt every movement in the exerciſe of the ſword.

In whatever form the ſword-knot may be worn, it is always to be looſened the moment a dragoon becomes mounted, in order to its being in readineſs for uſe, whenever ſwords are required to be drawn.

DRAW-

DRAWING OF SWORDS.

THE ſword will be drawn, and brought to the poſition in which it is to be *carried*, in three motions.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
Draw Swords.	1.	Upon the word *ſwords* being uttered, direct the eyes to the ſword-hilt, bringing the right hand with a ſharp action acroſs the body and over the bridle-arm to the ſword-knot, placing it upon the wriſt, and giving the hand a couple of turns inwards, in order to make it faſt, at the ſame time ſeize the hilt, and wait in this poſition for the ſecond motion, which will be made by the fleugel-man on the right, the back of the hand is to be to the rear.
	2.	Draw the ſword from the ſcabbard with a full extended arm, at the ſame time ſink the hand till the hilt of the ſword is immediately under the chin, with the blade perpendicular, and the back of the hand outwards.
	3.	Bring the hilt down, to be in a line with the bridle hand, the elbow

Words of Command. | Motion.

bow near the body, the blade perpendicular, and the wriſt in a ſmall degree rounded, which turns the edge inwards in the direction of the horſe's left ear.

SLOPING *of* SWORDS.

Slope Swords.

KEEP the ſword-arm in the exact poſition, pointed out for the carrying of ſwords; but diſtend the ſecond, third, and fourth fingers from the gripe of the ſword, in order that the back of the blade may meet the hollow of the right ſhoulder, where it is to be ſupported with the edge directed to the front.

When in this poſition, the ſword will be kept ſteady, and is to be without motion, at whatever pace the horſe may be moving.

RETURN-

RETURNING *of* SWORDS.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		THE ſword is always to be returned from the carried poſition, and not from the ſloped. This is likewiſe executed in three motions, dreſſing by the right.
Return Swords.	1.	Carry the ſword-hilt to the hollow of the left ſhoulder, having the back of the hand outwards, and the blade perpendicular, without pauſing. Drop the blade (but not the hand) to the rear cloſe by the left ſhoulder, directing the eyes to the ſcabbard,* in which the blade is immediately to be placed, and returned until the *hand* and *elbow* become in a line with each other, ſquare acroſs the body, and keeping the back of the hand directed to the rear.
	2.	Thruſt the ſword home into the ſcabbard, and looſen inſtantly the ſword-knot from the wriſt, keeping the hand upon the hilt.

* By reſting the blade upon the bridle arm, the point will eaſil meet the ſcabbard.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
	3.	On the motion from the fleugel man, carry the right hand from the hilt with a ſmart action to the off ſide.

PREPARE *to* GUARD.

THIS is performed in one motion, and done by bringing the extremity of the ſword-hilt up to the pit of the ſtomach, with the back of the hand outwards: the flat of the blade to the face, and carried perpendicularly. At the ſame inſtant, the bridle-hand muſt croſs the body in a ſimilar direction, and immediately under the ſword hand, keeping the nails inwards and hand cloſed.

Let it be obſerved throughout the *drill* exerciſe, that each cut ends with bringing the ſword back to its poſition in the *guard*, from which the recruit without waiting for any previous word from the drill officer, will come immediately down to the *prepare to guard.* This is to be continued as long as the motions are executed by a repetition of numbers.

It is when in this laſt poſition, that the drill officer will give his principal inſtructions on the mode of executing the movements following. It will eaſe the ſword arm, that requires ſuch relief; at the ſame time the conſtantly

carrying

carrying out the arm to the *guard*, previous to every cut during this part of the exercife, will ftrengthen the elbow, and accuftom the recruit to take a correct pofition.

GUARD.

FROM the motion to *prepare to guard*, the *guard* is done at once, by darting the fword hand forward with the fame force, as in making a blow directed to the left ear of the opponent. This will caufe the back of the blade to be towards the face; the edge of the fword fhould be turned in a trifling degree down, fo as to raife the bevel* above the level of the edge, in order to receive the cuts, rather than the edge which would be fpoiled, at the fame time that it caufes the fword hilt to give the neceffary protection to the wrift. The fword to be kept nearly in an horizontal pofition acrofs the face, the point carried rather above the level of the mounting, and in an exact parallel to the front.

The fight to be directed towards the antagonift, between the ear of the fword and the blade; the pofition of the blade is not to be altered for that purpofe, but the edge invariably kept down as before directed; notwithftanding it has the effect of narrowing the focus, it occafions no impediment to the fight.

In this pofition the arm fhould be diftended to the utmoft, and of courfe the hand above the level of the

* Plate VI. Bevel, &c.

fhoulder:

ſhoulder: the bridle-hand always remains acroſs the body, in the poſition of holding a bridle, except when the ſwords are ſloped.

The greateſt attention muſt at all times be paid to the correct poſition of the *Guard*; as it is not only of conſequence by protecting the head and arm, but as from it, nearly every movement offenſive to the front is made, and to it again, in all cuts, the blade invariably returns.

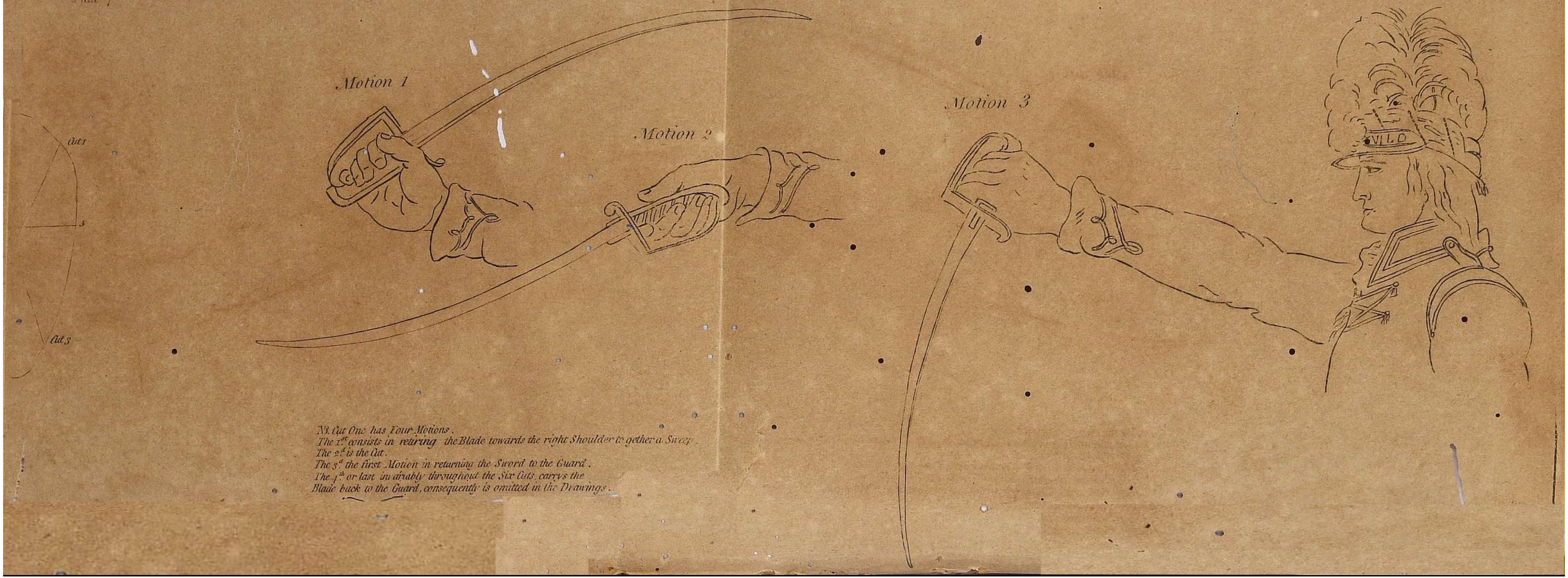
In this poſition the arm becomes a pivot, round which the wriſt wheels the ſword, independent of any other action but what may be derived from the ſhoulder: care muſt therefore be taken, neither to incline it to the right or left of the given poſition, nor to ſink it below the level of the antagoniſt's left ear; but above all, not to bend the elbow: theſe are faults which beginners are extremely apt to commit, and which expoſe the ſword-arm to be completely diſabled. The attention cannot be too often recalled to theſe moſt eſſential points in the ſcience; the ſtrict obſervance of which chiefly conſtitutes the excellence of the ſyſtem.

CUTS.

WE now come to the firſt Cut, in performing which the blade takes four diſtinct poſitions, which when perfectly executed, are not diſcernible, as the quickneſs of

action

Cut 1.



N.B. Cut One has Four Motions.
The 1st consists in retiring the Blade towards the right Shoulder to gether a Sweep.
The 2d is the Cut.
The 3d the first Motion in returning the Sword to the Guard.
The 4th or last invariably throughout the Six Cuts, carrys the Blade back to the Guard, consequently is omitted in the Drawings.

action in the wrist gives them the appearance of being only one motion: therefore to assist the comprehension of beginners, it will be necessary in the drill to distinguish the changes of the blade, by the separate pauses of 1, 2, 3, 4.

It is to be remarked, that the first motion in every cut consists in bringing the blade back to gather a sweep, at the same instant placing it in the direction in which it is to be applied, and the last motion brings the blade back to the guard. The plates (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,) describe the exact position of the hand, in the different motions contained in each cut.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
Guard.		FROM the *guard*, upon the word *one*, by the sole action of the wrist, draw back the blade, so as to bring the point in a perpendicular line with the outside of the right shoulder, for the purpose of making a sweep: taking care at the same time, to turn the joints of the fingers in the same direction the cut is to be made, which will be in a diagonal course, as from 1 to 4. *(Plate* I. *fig.* 2.*)*
Cut I. *in four Motions.*	1.	

And

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		And it is to be confidered as an invariable rule, that the direction of the finger joints regulates the edge of the blade.
	2.	By a quick motion of the wrift downwards, with proper attention to direct the point to number 1, the blade will be conducted to number 4.
	3.	Turn the wrift inwards, dropping the point fo as to bring the blade in a diagonal line acrofs the body, with the edge outwards.
	4.	Bend the back of the hand inwards, bringing the flat of the blade towards the face, and carrying on the motion of the wrift, till the blade arrives at its original pofition in the guard, taking care at the fame time, that in raifing the blade, it makes a fweep inwards juft to clear the elbow of the bridle hand.

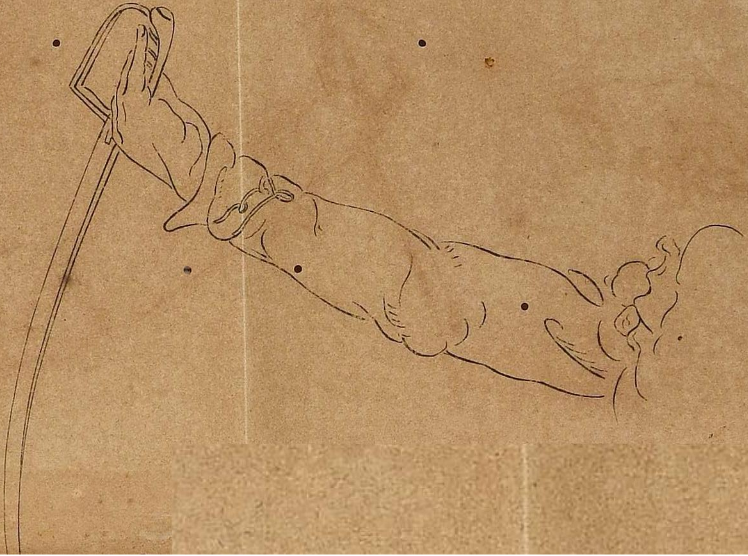
The recruit having been trained to perform the above in four diftinct motions with precifion; drop the repetition of figures, and let him perform them very flowly, as one motion, and then increafe the quicknefs of execution, till the cut is correctly made, with force, carrying

Cut 2.

Motion 1.

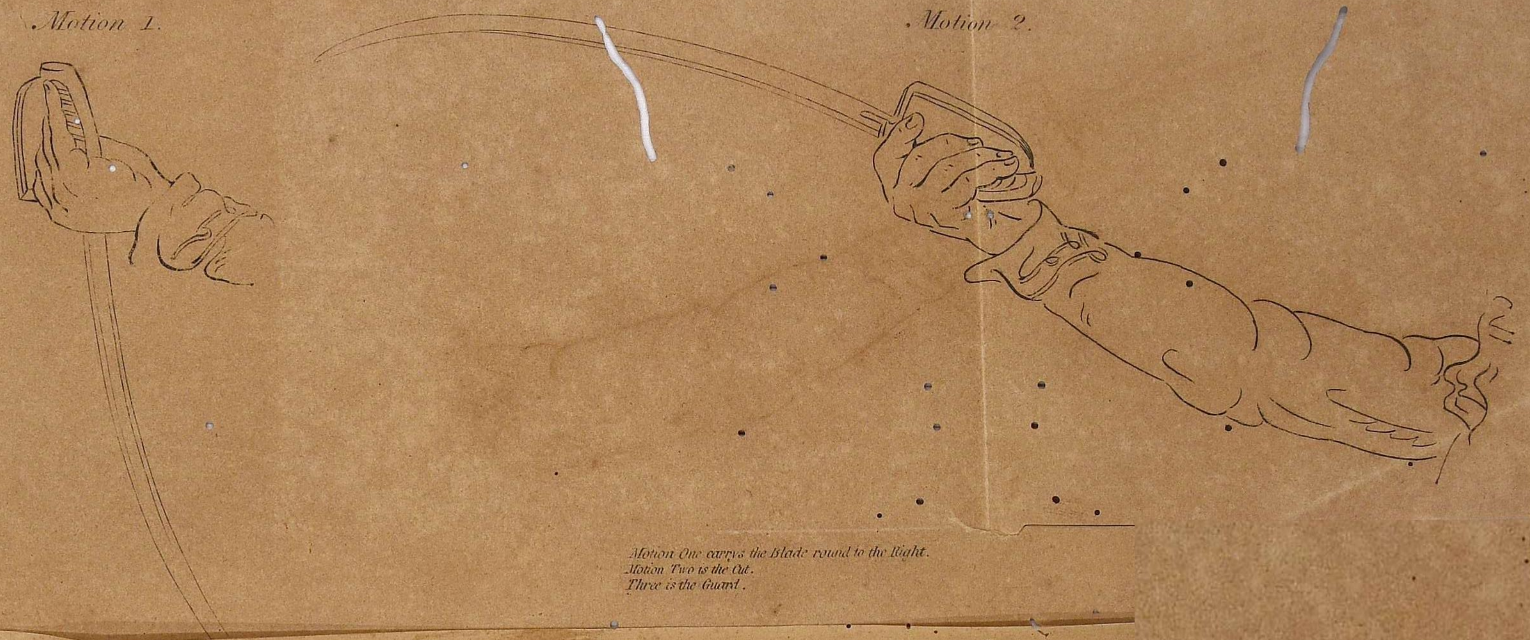
Motion 2.

Motion 3.



Motion One consists in returning the Blade towards the left Shoulder.
Two is the Cut.
Three the first Motion in returning to the Guard.
Four is the Guard.

Cut 3.



Motion One carrys the Blade round to the Right.
Motion Two is the Cut.
Three is the Guard.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		one drawn from the numbers 2 and 3, (plate I. fig. 4) with the back of the blade towards the body.
	2.	Conduct the point of the ſword from number 3 to number 2, by bending the wriſt towards the face, and preſſing upon the three diſtended fingers, which act as a lever.
	3.	Come to the original guard by turning the nails under, and back of the hand up.

Too much attention cannot be paid to ſuppling the wriſt, and the drill officer will inſtruct his ſquad in the mode of doing ſo, which is by a repetition of the 1ſt and 2d motions in cut III. ſeveral times ſucceſſively, without making any pauſe on either motion.

Every leſſon ſhould begin with ſuppling the wriſt, and which muſt be frequently repeated during the hours of drill: in which practice the recruit will direct his attention to the ſteadineſs of his arm, which is to be ſtraight, keeping the hand above the level of the ſhoulder.

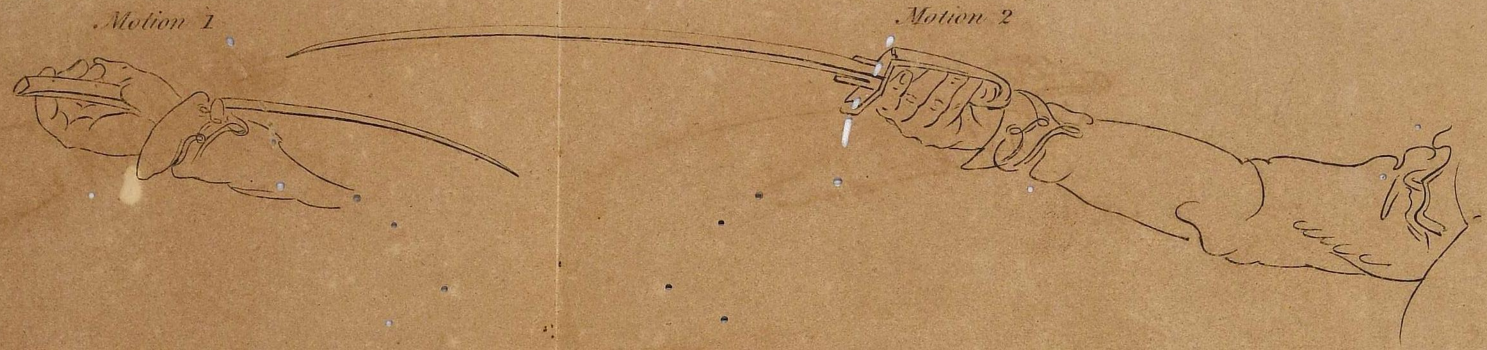
Words of Command.	Motions	
		Cut IV. is likewiſe performed in 3 motions.—By turning the wriſt to the left, it will drop the point in
Guard.		
Cut IV. *in three Motions.*	1.	a diagonal line acroſs the body, within three inches of the left elbow, and with the edge of the ſword outwards.
	2.	Carry the point from No. 4 to 1, (plate I. fig. 5.) diagonally, by extending the hand in a direct line with the arm.
	3.	Double back the hand to its original poſition in the *Guard*, without carrying the blade round the head to the right, as it would make the motion wider than is neceſſary.

The cut V. is made horizontally acroſs the face, from ear to ear, and executed in three motions.

Guard. *Cut* V. *in three Motions.*	1.	Carry the point of the blade round to the right, with the edge directed outwards, till it reaches a little below the level of the ſword-hand, and inclined towards the right ſhoulder. This is done by turning

Motion One, drops the Blade across the Body,
with point towards the Elbow of the Bridle-Arm.
Motion Two the Cut.
Motion Three is the Guard.

Cut 5



Motion One is retiring the Blade in a
Horizontal direction to the Right.
Motion Two is the Cut.
Motion Three the Guard.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		turning the back of the hand under, and bringing the nails up.
	2.	Conduct the point to No. 5, and horizontally acrofs the circle, which is done by inclining the hand inwards in the direction of the cut, without changing the pofition of the nails. (Plate I. fig. 6.)
	3.	Turn the wrift into its proper pofition in the *Guard*, by bringing the back of the hand up.

Cut VI. has the fame number of motions as the preceding one.

Guard. *Cut* VI. *in three Motions.*	1.	Retire the point of the blade within a foot of the left fhoulder, finking it a little below the level of the fword-hand, which is done by an inclination of the wrift towards the face.
	2.	Conduct the point to No. 6, and horizontally acrofs the circle to No. 5. (plate I. fig. 7.) by carrying the hand out in that direction, keeping the back of the hand ftill upwards.

 3. Bring

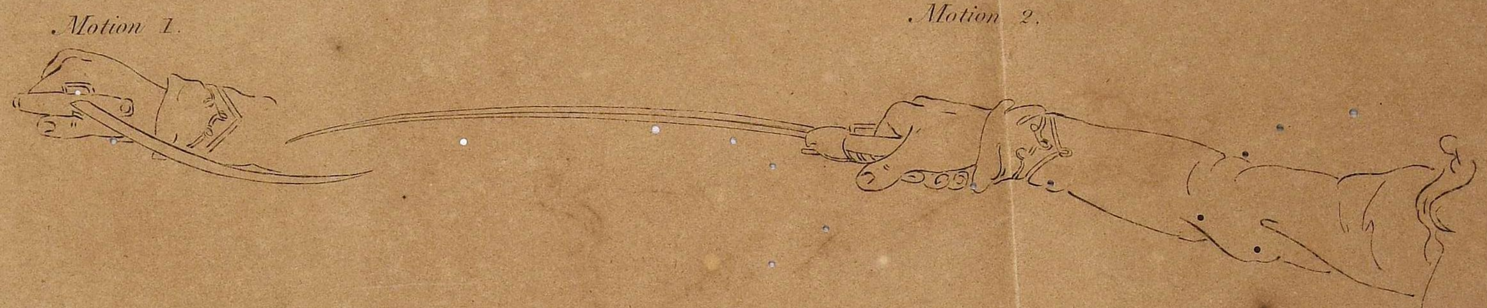
Words of Command.	Motion.	
	3.	Bring the blade in a ſweep round the right ſhoulder, and clear of the head to its poſition in the *Guard*, by turning the back of the hand under, and inclining it outwards, till the blade is brought nearly to the head; then turn the back of the hand to the face, and it will conduct the blade to the *Guard*.—*Slope Swords*.

In the foregoing motions, the beginner is apt to carry his right ſhoulder too forward, and likewiſe to incline his head to the ſword-arm. He may be allowed to do both in a ſmall degree, but by no means to exceſs; and on no account ſhould the recruit be permitted to proceed farther in the ſyſtem than theſe ſix cuts, 'till he is perfect maſter of the preceding directions.

THE manner of performing the ſix cuts ſingly being attained, the next object is to combine them, which will occaſion ſome little deviation with reſpect to the mode of executing the ſecond and fourth cuts, from the principles laid down in the preceding leſſons; in which they are only treated of, as they are to be applied ſingly; but the whole executed together form a combined movement, which occaſions the difference in the mode of practice.

In

Cut 6.



Motion One consists in retiring the Blade towards the left Ear in a Horizontal direction.
Motion Two is the Cut.
Motion Three is the Guard.

In cut II. the ſword is not to be carried round the right ſhoulder to the poſition to guard, immediately upon making the cut, but to be allowed to pauſe on the third motion of the ſecond cut; in which poſition the blade will be in the exact direction for performing cut three; and where it is to remain 'till the word is given for making that cut.

In cut four, the change is in the ſecond motion: where inſtead of bringing the blade to the guard in the third movement of that cut, drop the point to the right in the preciſe poſition of the firſt motion in cut V.; and wait there for the word from the officer to make that cut.

It muſt be obvious that the mode of executing the cuts two and four, according to the preceding directions, leſſens the number of motions, and that each cut leads to the other, by which means, when the whole are quickly executed, the edge is carried with redoubled force, acquired by the velocity of action in the blade, in conſequence of not being impeded in its courſe.

THE changes upon each cut neceſſary to a combined movement having been acquired, the recruit ſhould be next taught to execute all the cuts quickly and as one movement, which in the courſe of future practice will be termed *the Aſſault*.

MODES

MODES *of* PARRYING.

WE now arrive at the different modes of parrying to the front: they are five in number, including the one already practifed, under the denomination of the *Guard*.

The *left* and *right Protect* are the two following motions, which will be performed fucceding each other, without coming to the *prepare* between the intervals of their performance.

Words of Command.	
Guard. *Left Protect.*	From the *guard*, carry the fword-arm fmart acrofs the body to the left, raifing the point of the blade, till it becomes perpendicular; keeping the hand above the level of the fhoulder: at the fame inftant, place the thumb on the gripe, between the back plate and the ear, (plate VI.) which will turn the edge of the fword to the right, and the back outwards to receive the cut: the arm to be kept as far from the body as the pofition will admit.
	The elbow in this as well as in the next motion is to have no action whatever, as the whole muft proceed

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Left Protect

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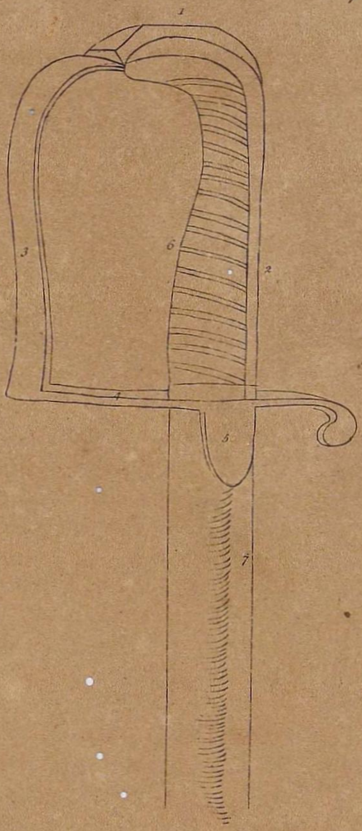
A Blade Mounted with a Stirrup Hilt.



1 The Head of the Back Plate
2 The Back Plate
3 Side Iron
4 Foot of the Stirrup Iron
5 The Ear
6 The Grip
7 The outward Revil

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Neele sculp.t

P. Cary Corn

Guard.

Prepare to Guard

P. Carey Corn.t
8th L. Drag.s Del.

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Slope Swords.

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Carry. Swords

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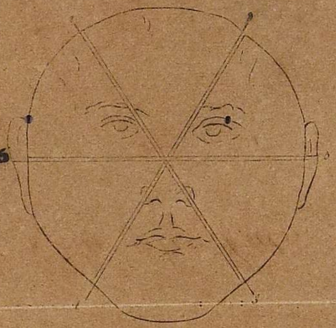
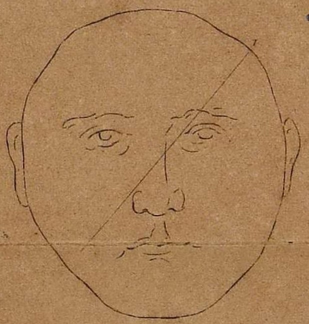
Fig. 1



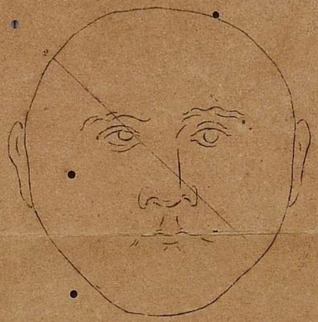
The Six Cuts

Fig. 2



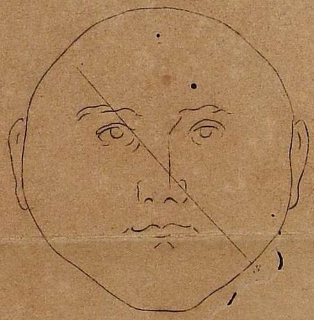
Cut One

Fig. 3



Cut Two

Fig. 4

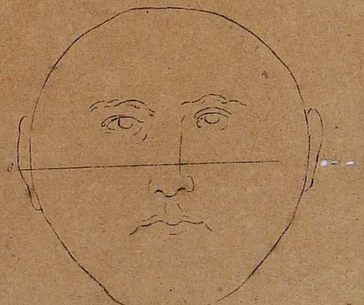


Cut Three

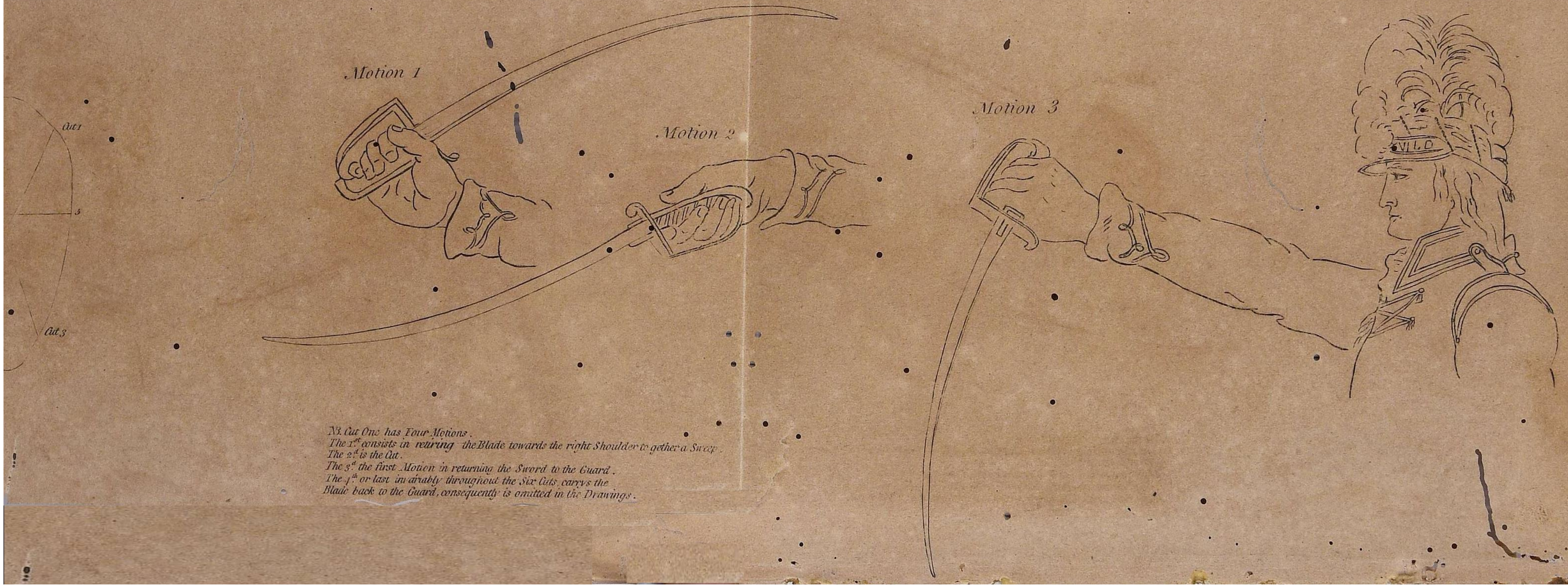
Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7



Cut 1.



N.B. Cut One has Four Motions.
The 1st consists in *retiring* the Blade towards the right Shoulder to gether a Sweep.
The 2d is the Cut.
The 3d the first Motion in returning the Sword to the Guard.
The 4th or last invariably throughout the Six Cuts, carrys the Blade back to the Guard, consequently is omitted in the Drawings.

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Left Protect

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Right Protect

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Neele sculp. Strand.

Words of Command. proceed from the ſhoulder and wriſt.

Right Protect. Without changing the direction of the blade, as held in the forego-ing poſition, cary the ſwôrd-arm briſkly to the right, directing the hand to the diſtance of two feet from the edge of the circle, above the level of the ſhoulder.—— Return to the *prepare to guard.*

To preſerve uniformity in the motions of *left* and *right protect*, which are both applied on the ſame principle, it was neceſſary to diſtinguiſh the immediate points to which the hand was to be directed; but when oppoſed to an enemy, their application muſt depend on the direction of the cuts or thruſts, which they are intended to parry.

The utmoſt attention muſt be paid not to oppoſe the edge to the enemy's ſabre when it can be avoided; but the bevel, which can only be done, by placing the thumb between the back plate and the ear of the ſword, and keeping it firm in that poſition, the arm to be properly diſtended for the purpoſe of reſiſting the force of the blow.

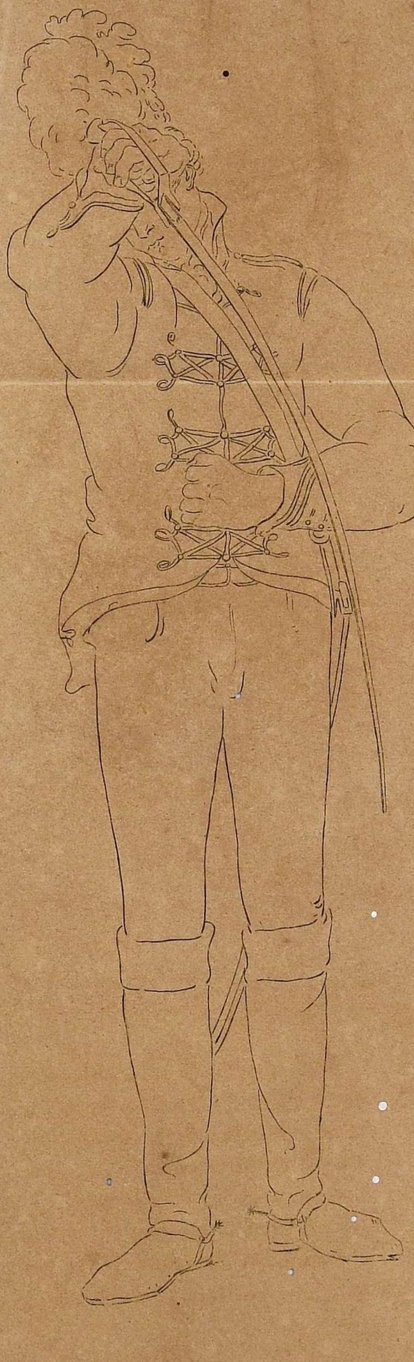
The only difference neceſſary to be obſerved in coming to the *protect* from the *prepare*, in the place of the *guard* is, that before the hand moves to the poſition directed,

directed, the thumb muſt be ſhifted to the place on the gripe already deſcribed.

The two following motions are for the protection of the horſe's head, at the ſame time with that of the rider.

Words of Command.	
Guard. Horſe, near ſide Protect.	Direct the point of the blade forwards to the left of the horſe's head, and in a diagonal line from the hand, which is not to droop, but to be carried a little forward, in order to afford the protection required either from cut I. or III. The edge will be upwards in this inſtance, but it muſt neceſſarily be expoſed, from the nature of the guard.
Horſe, off ſide Protect.	Raiſe the blade till it becomes perpendicular, carrying it at the ſame inſtant in a briſk motion forwards, to the off ear of the horſe, and in the exact poſition of *Right protect*; not forgetting to place the thumb in the direction therein mentioned.—Return to the *prepare to guard.*

The different guards to the front have already been deſcribed; we therefore now proceed to the retiring poſitions, which are performed upon a different principle, the



Horse near Side Protect!

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... L. Drag.s del.

Engraved by ...

Bridle Arm Protect.

P. Carey Corn.t
16th L.t Drag.s Del.

the arm being neceſſarily bent to carry the ſword to the rear.

The three following guards muſt be executed ſucceeding each other, without coming to the prepare between the intervals of their performance.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
Guard. Bridle-arm Protect, in two Motions.	1.	From the poſition to guard, carry the ſword in a horizontal direction to the right; the edge of the blade leading till it arrives in a right line with the point of the ſhoulder.
	2.	Turn the back of the hand under, which will cauſe the edge of the blade to be upwards: at the ſame inſtant, by bending the elbow and turning the wriſt ſo as to place the palm of the hand in front, the blade will be conducted to the protection of the bridle arm, which poſition conſiſts in having the ſword-hilt above the helmet, with the blade croſſing the back of the head, the point of the left ſhoulder, and the bridle arm; its edge directed to the left, and turned a little upwards, in order to

Words of Command.

to bring the mounting in a proper direction to protect the hand.

After protecting the bridle arm in two motions, it is to be performed without making any pause on the first motion.

Sword-arm Protect. Without sinking the hand from the protection of the bridle-arm, or moving the arm from its former position, carry the blade round the back of the head to the right, by turning the wrist till the palm of the hand arrives opposite the helmet; the blade will then be in a diagonal line, with the point downwards, directed to the right, and the edge up.

St. George. Bring the blade in a horizontal direction across the top of the head, with the edge upwards and the point to the left. This is done by turning the wrist up, so as to carry the blade round the back of the head to its position.

From the *St. George*, or *head protect*, come to the position to guard, by making that cut to the rear,

Sword Arm Protect.

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S.ᵗ George

E. Gwyn Cornᵗ
9ᵗʰ Lᵗ Dragˢ. del.

Words of Command.	Motions.	

rear, which muſt frequently be applicable, whenever the three retiring guards are ſo; and which makes the full ſweep of a ſemicircle.

It is done upon the principle of the ſixth cut, only giving edge to the rear, inſtead of the front; but as the mode of executing it deviates in ſome reſpects from former practice, it may not be amiſs to give it in detail. It is performed in two motions from the *St. George*.

To the rear Cut, in two Motions.

1. By the right, turn the body to the rear as far as poſſible without moving the feet from the ground: at the ſame inſtant carry the blade to the rear, directing the edge as from 6 to 5, till it arrives in a right line with the arm, which will be at its full extent. The point of the blade to be kept upon a level with the ſhoulder. In this poſition the edge will be directed to the right, with the back of the hand upwards.

2. Turn the back of the hand down by

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		by a motion of the wriſt to the right, and carry the point of the blade with a ſweep over the left ſhoulder, to the proper poſition in the guard. After cutting to the rear in two motions, execute it without pauſing upon the firſt motion. Return immediately from the *guard* to the poſition to *prepare*, without any word from the drill officer.

GENERAL APPLICATION *of the* POINT.

THE motions offenſive and defenſive beſt adapted to the cavalry have now been conſidered; except what relates to the point. But as that is applied upon a general principle, whether againſt cavalry or infantry, it has been reſerved till we come to treat of the infantry part of this ſyſtem. It has been already mentioned, that the ſword has three diſtinct movements when oppoſed to the infantry; and which can only be applied in two ſituations, on the near, or off-ſide of the horſe. The movements conſiſt in *giving point*, the *parry* and the *cut*.

In the drill practice, the motions in each movement will be diſtinguiſhed by a repetition of numbers, according to the mode already purſued. But preciſion being

Left Give Point.

E. Cary Corn.t
16.th L. Drag.s Del.

being once acquired, the recruit is to be ordered to execute them without making any unneceſſary pauſe upon the different motions. Let it be obſerved, that the ſafety and advantage in giving the point, conſiſts in oppoſing only a flank, and never a front to the antagoniſt, by which means the curve of a ſcymitar blade covers the body, whilſt the guard protects the hand.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
Left give Point in two Motions.	1.	Without moving the feet, turn the head round to the left, keeping the body ſquare to the front; at the ſame inſtant place the blade in a diagonal line acroſs the body to the left, with the edge outwards, and the point directed as to an object conſiderably below your own level.

This is to be done, by dropping the point immediately from the poſition *prepare to guard*, and bending the elbow till the knuckles of the ſword-hand are a little above the level of the ear, and about ſix inches from the head. The fore-finger and thumb are to be diſtended; the former on the gripe, between the ear and back plate, in a line with the flat of the blade;

and

Words of Command.	Motion.	
		and the latter on the back plate, in a line with the back of the blade, by which means the extremity of the ſword-hilt will fall into the palm of the hand; which being preſt againſt the three remaining fingers will give a firm purchaſe, and the means of applying a ſteady point. The head will be turned to the left, and eyes to the extremity of the blade. The recruit will wait in this poſition for the word *two* from the drill officer.
	2.	Dart the ſword down in the direction in which it was held, to the utmoſt extent of the arm; taking care not to alter the poſition of the hand or blade, which ſhould have the edge outwards, and the back of the hand up.
To the rear Parry, in two Motions.	1.	Without changing the poſition of the hand, extend the ſword-arm to the front of your uſual poſition, in order to take a ſweep with the edge of the blade upwards, and kept well off from the body, upon the ſuppoſition of being on horſeback, ſo as to pre- vent

P. Cary Corn.t
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Front Give Point.

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		vent the ſword from touching the horſe's ſhoulder.
	2.	Bring the arm back with a quick motion to the rear, till the ſword-hand arrives in a line parallel to the left ear, and ſix inches from the head; at the ſame inſtant raiſe the point, till the blade becomes perpendicular, with the edge directed outwards to the left, and the back towards the face.
Cut IV.		From the poſition in which the blade is left in finiſhing the *parry*, bring it back to the poſition in the *guard*; carrying the edge with a good ſweep outwards, taking care not to croſs with your blade parallel to your proper front, till it is brought conſiderably above the level of the horſe's head; otherwiſe, the animal would be in danger of receiving the cut.

The following movement applies in acting againſt cavalry.

Front give point in two Motions.	1.	Face to the right, by turning on the heels; at the ſame inſtant retire the arm towards the ear as in giving

Words of Command.	Motion.	
		giving point to the left; with this difference, that the hand is to be drawn as far back as poſſible, retaining exactly the ſame graſp of the ſword. The flat of the blade to be upwards, with the edge directed to the right, keeping the point horizontal with the hand, and the ſword carried above the peak of the helmet. The head is to be turned to the left, in the ſame direction with the point. Upon all occaſions in *giving point* againſt cavalry, the ſword is to be carried above the peak of the helmet, and by preſſing the blade againſt the helmet it will be kept ſteady.
	2.	Dart the hand in the direction of your proper front, to the full extent of the arm; turning at the ſame time to the left about, keeping the blade ſtill horizontal, and without changing the poſition of the hand, which ought to be with the back upwards.
Cuts V. VI.		Retire the blade in its horizontal direction to the right, in doing which, bring the back of the hand under and carry the blade imme-

diately

Right Give Point

P. Carey Corn.t
16.th L.t Drag.s Del.

Eng[illegible]

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		diately to the cuts V. and VI. when return to the *prepare* to *guard*, from the laſt cut, bringing the body round to the proper front.
Right give point in two Motions.	1.	Turn the head to the right as much as can be done without moving the body, which is to be kept ſquare to the front; at the ſame time bring the ſword-hand up to the ear, having the graſp as before, with the back of the hand up, and the edge of the blade in the ſame direction as in making the thruſt on the near ſide, carrying the point as much to the right, as in the other inſtance, it was directed to the left of your uſual front. The poſition of the feet being two inches aſunder, the facings may be done in one motion, by turning on the heels.
	2.	Dart your ſword down to the full extent of the arm, without changing the poſition of the hand.
Rear parry, in two Motions.	1.	Without changing the poſition of the hand, carry the blade towards your front to gather a ſweep; in doing which, turn the edge of the

 blade

Words of Command.	Motions.	
		blade up, and the back of the hand under. This will bring the back of the blade oppoſite to your front.
	2.	Without changing the poſition of the hand, by a ſharp action of the ſword-arm to the rear, carry the ſword as far back as the arm will admit of, the hand to be on a level with the point of the ſhoulder, the blade carried perpendicular, with the edge directed towards the rear, and the back to the front.
Cut III.		From the *parry*, bring the ſword to the proper poſition of the *guard*, by carrying an edge with a good ſweep outwards, and with the ſame precaution not to croſs parallel to the front on account of the horſe. Return from the *guard* to the poſition of *ſlope ſwords*.

THE movements of the ſword have been conſidered upon drill principles, in which the attention was directed ſolely to claſs them in ſuch a manner, as to lead the recruit progreſſively to the different changes of which the blade is ſuſceptible, that he may acquire a perfect

execution

execution of each ſeparately; the motions having not the leaſt reference to what may be their poſitions, when arranged under a proper ſyſtem of exerciſe.

AFTER having attained to a tolerable degree of accuracy, the mode of executing ſeparately the movements already laid down, it will be proper next to proceed to perform the ſword-exerciſe by word of command, taking the motions at the ſame time from fleugel men, according to the principle obſerved in the manual exerciſe.

To front the wall will be no longer neceſſary, as it is to be ſuppoſed that the poſition of every cut as deſcribed on the circle (to which all former practice has been applied) muſt now be fully in the recollection of the recruit.

The head muſt follow the direction of every motion, two fleugel-men will therefore be neceſſary, one on each flank; who are to be careful to take up the time from each other, according to the change of poſition, or dreſſing point, from right to left.

The diſtance of files will be laid down for the practice of the ſword exerciſe in battalion and ſmaller diviſions.

The battalion to be told off in wings, and ranks of threes.

TELLINGS OFF *in* BATTALION *or* DIVISION.

Words of Command.	
Rear rank take diſtance for ſword exerciſe.	THE right and left hand men of the rear rank belonging to both wings, will retreat nine paces, dreſſing by the right.
March.	The rear rank falls back and dreſſes by the pivots; the fleugel men will at the ſame time take their diſtances to the front.
From the center of the battalion open your files. March.	The men of the right wing inſtantly open out, placing their bridle-hands in the hollow of the left ſide, ſo as to barely touch with their elbows their left-hand files.
	The left wing will open out, and upon the ſame principle inſure the diſtance of files, by means of the right arms.
	The rear rank to do the ſame.

The

Words of Command.

The arms to be kept up, till brought down by a motion from the right fleugel-man.

Great attention from the drill officer is requifite, in order to obferve that the proper diftances of files are taken, to prevent unpleafant accidents which may otherwife occur, and on this account the arm fhould be kept bent, till he has feen that the diftances are correctly obferved.

Prepare to perform fword exercife.

Upon thefe words of command, the right fubdivifion of each wing will give the diftances of files in the manner following.

The right-hand man of ranks by threes ftands faft, the center man takes three paces to the rear of the right-hand file, and covers him.

The left-hand man of the divifion retreats fix paces, and covers the two preceding file of his divifion.

The doubling files are all to ftep

Words of Command. off with the right feet, the rear rank does the ſame, covering the front rank files.

March. The right hand files of all the diviſions ſtand faſt: the left and centre men taking their diſtances as before directed: * officers and non-commiſſioned officers to the rear, except ſuch as are told off in ranks of threes.

By this movement, the battalion will become ſix deep.

As an aukward man may occaſion a ſerious accident, by not exactly covering his file, it will be moſt ſafe to prove their diſtances, which is to be done as follows.

To the right, prove diſtance of files. † Taking the motions from the fleugel-man, every man will point his ſword to the right at the full extent of his arm, keeping the

* The non-commiſſioned officers to be one horſe's length to the rear covering a file, the officers at the diſtance of two horſes length.

† The right-hand men of the line remain with their ſwords ſloped, having no diſtance to prove.

blade

blade horizontal, and in a line with the ſhoulder; the edge directed the ſame way, and the hilt held in the preciſe manner, as when giving point in that direction. The body to be kept ſquare to the front, with the head turned to the right.

When each file has had time to ſee whether he has his proper diſtance, and corrected it where required, (which muſt be inſtantly done, with a ſteady eye and prompt deciſion) they will be directed to return to the poſition of *ſlope ſwords.*

On this word of command, the ſwords to be brought down together to the poſition directed.

To the front, prove diſtance of files.

This is to be done, in every reſpect according to the rules laid down for giving point to the right; carrying the ſword forward with caution, ſo as not to wound the file in front, ſhould the diſtance not have been preſerved. The front rank remains with ſwords ſloped, upon the

Words of Command. the principle laid down for the files on the flanks of the line.

Slope swords. The swords to return to the *slope*, the body kept square to the front.

SWORD EXERCISE ON FOOT.

THE sword exercise consists of the motions already described, arranged in six distinct classes of offensive and defensive movements, with reference to their application in those situations which are most likely to occur on actual service.

Explanatory notes of the principles of application comprised in each movement will be given, and likewise further instruction as to the mode of executing the different motions, which being now combined with others, vary in some respects from the directions that have been laid down for performing them singly. As the sword exercise, when acquired, is to be executed by one word of command to each division of movements, the memory must be assisted as much as possible, in order to enable every person to recollect the motions, as they succeed each other: for which purpose the following leading points should be observed.

Each division of movements commences with coming to

to the *prepare to guard*, from the poſition of *ſlope ſwords*, and is ſucceeded by the *guard*.

The poſition *prepare to guard* always ſucceeds the laſt motion of the ſix cuts, to which poſition the ſword is immediately to be brought, without pauſing in the leaſt on the laſt motion of the preceding movement.

The point is always given from the poſition to *prepare*, without firſt coming to the *guard*, excepting in the laſt diviſion of movements; and notwithſtanding that in the other five diviſions it may be given to the Right and Left, yet between each thruſt come to the *prepare*, as it is to originate from that poſition. The *left* and *right protect* are likewiſe made from the *prepare to guard*.

Each movement invariably concludes with the motions *prepare to guard*, the *guard*, and *ſloping* of ſwords.

The memory will therefore have to charge itſelf only with the particular motions which belong to each of the ſix diviſions of movements. This will be rendered perfectly clear by the words of command which characterize the movements, being diſtinguiſhed by numbers.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Perform Sword Exercise by Word of Command.

First Division of Movements.

	From which Fleugelman the Motion is to be taken.
Prepare to guard.	Right.
Guard.	Right.
No. 1. *Assault.*	Right.
No. 2. *Left protect.*	Right.
No. 3. *Right protect.*	Left.
No. 4. *Prepare to guard.*	Right.
No. 5. *Front give point.*	Right.
* *Prepare to guard.*	Left.
Guard.	Right.
Slope swords.	Right.

It is to be an invariable rule to return to the *prepare to guard*, upon the last motion of the sixth cut.

It is also to be recollected, that the head turns and remains fixt in the direction to which the motion points.

* Drop the point, and bring it with a sweep round the left elbow to the *prepare to guard.*

The

The motions throughout the exercise are to be performed sharp and correctly, paying strict attention to the dressing points.

In this first division, there are only five motions which are not conformable to the general rule already stated.

The points of dressing given opposite the words of command, shew from which fleugelman the particular motions are to be taken; and it is to be considered as matter of course, that the head and eyes follow the direction of each motion.

Explanation of the first Division of Movements.

The *assault* represents the charge, where the six Cuts are directed, indiscriminately to the *right* and *left*.

The *protects* are against the returning cuts of the enemy.

The *point* is given on a supposition of the enemy's retiring.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Second Divifion of Movements.

		Fleugelman.
	Prepare to guard.	Right.
	Guard.	Right.
No. 1.	*Affault.*	Right.
No. 2.	*Guard.*	Right.
No. 3.	*Bridle-arm protect.*	Right.
No. 4.	*Sword-arm protect.*	Left.
No. 5.	*St. George.*	Right.
* No. 6.	*Rear cut.*	Right.
	Guard.	Right.
	Slope fwords.	Right.

Explanation of the fecond Divifion of Movements.

The *affault* reprefents the charge.

Guarding the *bridle-arm* denotes being obliged to retreat, and as the purfuer will generally attack the near fide, it is the fafeft pofition to receive him in, as it not only

* Upon the laft motion of the cut, return to the *prepare to guard.*

covers

covers the arm, but as the enemy paſſes, carry the blade forwards, by moving the hand in that direction, it will alſo give protection to the whole of the near ſide.

The ſword-arm is ſuppoſed to be attacked by a ſecond purſuer, the moment the firſt is gone paſt, who makes his advances on the off ſide, in conſequence of ſeeing the attack on the near defeated.

In the defence of the ſword-arm the head and ſhoulders are expoſed, to which an offenſive movement is made, and parried by coming to the poſition *St. George*: the retreat is completed by giving cut VI. to the rear.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Third Diviſion of Movements.

		Fleugelman.
	Prepare to guard.	Right.
	Guard.	Right.
No. 1.	*Aſſault.*	Right.
No. 2.	*Guard.*	Right.
No. 3.	*Horſe's near ſide protect.*	Right.
No. 4.	*Horſe's off ſide protect.*	Left.
* No. 5.	*Cuts I. II. I.*	Right.

* Upon the laſt motion in cut I. come to the *prepare to guard*, by dropping your point as before directed.

No. 6.

	Fleugelman.
No. 6. *Left protect.*	Right.
No. 7. *Right protect.*	Left.
No. 8. *Prepare to guard.*	Right.
No. 9. *Front give point.*	Right.
* No. 10. *Cut I.*	Left.
Guard.	Left.
Slope swords.	Left.

* Return to the *prepare to guard.*

Explanation of the third Division of Movements.

The *assault* is the charge.

The horse's head is attacked and protected.

By the antagonist's second cut at the horse, he exposes his own head, which opening is taken advantage of in making the cuts I. II. I. and which he parries by coming to the *left* and *right protect*, and returns the point with cut I.

WORDS

WORDS OF COMMAND.

** Fourth Division of Movements.*

		Fleugelman.
	Prepare to guard.	Right.
	Guard.	Right.
† No. 1.	*On your right to the front parry.*	Right.
‡ No. 2.	*Cuts II. and I.*	Right & left.

No. 3.

* As this part of the ſubject relates to acting againſt infantry, attention muſt be paid to the principles given in the drill leſſons, for the application both of the point and edge of the ſabre.

† Parry the bayonet in the ſame manner to the front, as in the drill leſſons was practiſed to the rear.—And upon the word of command being given, retire the ſword-arm as far to the rear as poſſible; the hand on a level with the ſhoulder, the edge of the blade directed to the rear, and back to the front, with the point upwards.—The Fleugelman will pauſe a little in this poſition, and then make his parry to the front, in completing which he recovers his ſword over the left ſhoulder, to be in readineſs for cuts II. and I. In bringing his blade from the parry to its poſition for making his cuts, the moment it has paſt over the horſe's head, he carries the point with a ſweep round his left to the rear; the back of the ſword-hand to touch the left temple, the edge of the blade upwards, with the back reſting on the ſhoulder, and the point ſunk conſiderably below the level of the hand. In this poſition wait for the order to cut II. and I.; the former on the off, and the latter on the near ſide of the horſe.

‡ In making theſe cuts, let the head be well turned in the direction

		Fleugelman.
No. 3.	*Right give point.*	Right.
No. 4.	*Prepare to guard.*	Right.
No. 5.	*Left give point.*	Left.
§ No. 6.	*Cuts III. and IV.*	Left & right.
	Guard.	Right.
	Slope ſwords.	Right.

Explanation of the fourth Diviſion of Movements.

The charge of a line of infantry in a narow paſs occupied by them on both ſides.

The firſt movement is to force the bayonets off to the front on the off ſide, and applying the edge to the right

rection of the blade, and in recovering the ſword from one ſide to the other, let it croſs the head in the poſition deſcribed by the *St. George*; and pauſe a ſecond whilſt in that attitude, till the eye is ſuppoſed to have fixt on its object. From the laſt motion in cut I. return to the *prepare to guard.*

Cut III. is made on the off-ſide, and IV. on the near ſide of the horſe.

§ The ſame directions given in the preceding note are to be followed in this inſtance, recollecting, that cut IV. is executed in two motions, as before pointed out in the drill practice of infantry movements, viz. The firſt motion is to place the blade in the preciſe poſition directed in the ſecond movement of the left parry, and from which the cut is to be made.

and

and left with the point, keeping both ſides of the enemy occupied, till the defile is ſuppoſed to be paſt.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

* *Fifth Diviſion of Movements.*

		Fleugelman.
	Prepare to guard.	Right.
	Guard.	Right.
† No. 1.	*Left cut I. and II.*	Left.
‡ No. 2.	*Right cut I. and II.*	Right.
No. 3.	*Left give point.*	Right.
No. 4.	*Prepare to guard.*	Left.

* This being the defence of one horſeman againſt the attack of two, one on each ſide, the cuts and thruſts are to be made as much to the right and left of his front, as in the infantry practice, only the ſword-arm to be kept well up, as directed for all cavalry movements.

† Carry the arm to the left, preſerving the ſword in the exact poſition of the guard, and make cuts I. and II.

In the third motion of cut II. the blade muſt be clear of the horſe's head, and on the off-ſide. The body in the ſame inſtant is to be turned to the right, bringing the blade in the *fourth motion*, up to the poſition of the guard in that direction.

‡ Return to the *prepare to guard* upon the concluſion of the laſt motion in cut II.

		Fleugelman.
§ No. 5.	*Right give point.*	Right.
‖ No. 6.	*Cuts V. and VI.*	Right & left.
	Guard.	Right.
	Slope ſwords.	Right.

Explanation of the fifth Diviſion of Movements.

The defence of one man againſt two.

The cuts applied on both ſides are the offenſive movements towards each antagoniſt as he approaches.

The left give point, is to the enemy on the left; and the right, for the one in that direction, whom he has at bay by remaining on the longe, waiting the approach of the other antagoniſt; at whom he makes cut V. the moment he is ſuppoſed to be within reach; and cut VI. in the oppoſite direction.

§ The moment the point is given, turn the edge of the blade to the front, and head to the left, keeping the arm and ſword extended in a right line, in readineſs to make cut V. on the near ſide, as ſoon as it is ſuppoſed the antagoniſt is within reach.

‖ Cut V. is made on the near, and VI. on the off-ſide of the horſe; and upon the laſt motion of cut VI. come to the *prepare to guard.*

WORDS

WORDS *of* COMMAND.

Sixth Diviſion of Movements.

		Fleugelr
	Prepare to guard.	Right.
	Guard.	Right.
No. 1.	*Right give point.*	Right.
* No. 2.	*Cuts* I. *and* II.	Right.
† No. 3.	*Left parry.*	Left.
‡ No. 4.	*Left protect.*	Left.
No. 5.	*Right protect.*	Left.
No. 6.	*Front give point.*	Left.
	Prepare to guard.	Left.
	Guard.	Right.
	Slope ſwords.	Right.

* Cuts I. and II. are made on the off-ſide.

† Left parry is done in two motions. The firſt by bringing the ſword-hand into the hollow of the left ſhoulder, upon the laſt motion in cut II. keeping the back of the hand outwards, and the point perpendicular. Second motion, drop the point of the blade as much to the rear of the near ſide as poſſible, making the circle by bringing it round to the front in the ſame poſition.

‡ As the defence is made to an attack on the near-ſide, in purſuit, the left protect muſt be carried as much to the left as the arm will permit; and the right protect, not to the off-ſide, as in an attack to the front, but in the direction of your horſe's left ear.

Explanation of the 6th Diviſion of Movements.

The modes of making an attack on the near ſide of a retiring enemy, with the means of defeating it, ſup-poſing it to be done in ſpeed.

Offenſive. Give point to the right, and make cuts I. and II. by which time the enemy is ſuppoſed to have rode paſt.

Defenſive. Receive the enemy with the ſword-hand in the hollow of the left ſhoulder, ready either to protect or parry: as he makes his thruſt, drop your blade outwards; it will carry off his point. Cuts one and two are protected by the left and right protect; and by checking your horſe, let your opponent paſs, and inſtantly give him the point.

As ſoon as each diviſion of movements is correctly executed by word of command; it muſt then be per-formed by only one word, ſpecifying the particular diviſion of movements.

The motions are all to be taken from the fleugel-man, without waiting for any other command than the one already mentioned.

AFTER the exercife is performed, it will be neceffary to bring the battalion into its proper formation, which may thus be done.

Words of Command.	
Front, form line. March.	Upon which the centre and left-hand men of divifions, run up and drefs by the pivot.
Rear rank clofe to the front. March.	To be done according to the cuftom of the fervice.
To the centre, clofe your files. March.	This is executed with the fide ftep.

PART II.

DRILL on HORSEBACK.

BEFORE the ſword exerciſe is attempted to be performed on horſeback, it will be neceſſary to render the horſes ſteady, by accuſtoming them to the ſight of the ſabre; which is eaſily effected, by frequently making the cuts five and ſix to the front, and dropping the blade both on the near and off-ſide, as is done in ſaluting.

The regiment being mounted, and the ſwords drawn for the purpoſe of performing the ſword exerciſe, the diſtance of ranks and files is to be taken as follows.

DISTANCE *of* RANKS *on* HORSEBACK.

Words of Command.	
Rear rank rein back for ſword exerciſe.	THE diſtance on the wings to be marked as directed in the foot practice.

The

Words of Command.	
March.	The rear rank reins back 4 horſes lengths, and dreſses by the pivots.
Prepare to perform ſword exerciſe.	The right ſubdiviſion of each wing, to mark the diſtance of files in the manner directed for the foot practice; allowing the diſtance of the third of a horſe's length between head and croup.
March.	The centre and left files rein back, till clear of the ſtanding flank, when they will file to the right, and dreſs by the pivots, taking care to cover correctly, by placing their horſes ſquare to the front.
	The diſtance of files is to be proved, as executed on foot.

SWORD-EXERCISE *when* MOUNTED.

Perform ſword exerciſe in ſix diviſions of movements, by fleugelman. First diviſion.	In completing each diviſion of movements, the line will return to the poſition of ſlope ſwords, when they will remain ſeated ſteady, dreſſing to the right, and without the leaſt motion whatever.

After

Words of Command.

After the pause of two seconds, the commanding officer will repeat the next word of command.

Second Division.

In the like manner he must repeat his commands through the remaining four divisions, which are comprised in the sword exercise.

The reins must be held very short, so as to enable the rider by the least action of the bridle-hand, to regulate the motion of his horse's head, in order to prevent the blade from being obstructed in its course; and that the tightness of the reins may not occasion any reining back, or impatience in the animal; take care to ease him by carrying the hand sufficiently forward for that purpose; at the same time feel his mouth without bearing a dead weight in that direction.

THE exercise must at first be performed slow, till great correctness of execution in every motion is attained.

In each cut, made either to the right or left of the front,

front, the bridle-hand is to feel the horſe's mouth to the oppoſite direction, in order to prevent the poſſibility of danger to the animal. If this is not done with judgment, the horſe will become unſteady. The ſlighteſt inclination of the hand is ſufficient for the purpoſe required, if the reins are properly held. There is no danger whatever of wounding the horſe, provided the edge of the blade is kept outwards agreeable to the drill inſtructions; or of its being impeded in moving either to the front or rear, if attention is paid not to croſs parallel to your front, till the point of the ſword is brought above the level of the ſhoulder. Too much attention cannot be paid to theſe particulars, as on their obſervance, the ſafety of the animal and dexterity in the exerciſe of the ſabre in a great meaſure depend. The poſitions of *carry* and *ſlope ſwords* are the ſame when on horſeback, as executed on foot.

In performing the ſix diviſions of movements, it is to be obſerved as an invariable rule in coming to the *guard,* to riſe in a ſmall degree in the ſtirrup, but *not clear* of the ſaddle, and to return to the uſual ſeat on horſeback with the motion to *ſlope ſwords*.

The aſſault and the different guards both to the front and rear have no particular variation from the foot practice.

In giving point to the front, the toe of the left foot muſt be *turned in* to the horſe's ſide, and the heel out, otherwiſe

otherwife it will be impoffible to bring the fhoulder up in the manner requifite for that movement.

The fame rule muft be obferved in cuting to the rear. Whatever movement is made, whether applied to cavalry or infantry, the balance of the body muft be preferved by means of the knees and thighs, without throwing the weight partially on either ftirrup; as upon fervice, horfes are very fubject to flip through their girths, notwithftanding every poffible attention that may be paid to remedy the inconvenience; therefore if the balance is not preferved, the faddle will turn and difmount the rider, of which many fatal examples have occurred.

SWORD DRILL *moving in* CIRCLE.

In order to apply fkilfully in actual fervice, the different movements of the fword comprifed in this exercife, it will be abfolutely neceffary to acquire a firm feat on horfeback. For this purpofe the regiment muft be trained by the riding-mafter, in fquads of eighteen or twenty men, to perform the exercife in a correct feat, when moving round a circle in a hand gallop. The precife pofition confifts in placing the foot fo far into the ftirrup, as to bring the inner part of the ball of the foot, on the outer rim of the ftirrup iron.

From the hip bone downwards, the leg and thigh are

are to be turned round to the ſaddle, the knee joint nearly ſtraight, the toes turned well in, and the heels ſunk as low as they will admit of. According to theſe inſtructions, the knee and thigh will have ſo firm a gripe of the ſaddle, that neither the loſs of a ſtirrup, or any ſudden motion of the animal can ſhake the rider from his poſition. The belly and cheſt are to be brought forward, whilſt the points of the ſhoulders are preſſed back, and the head carried well up. The only motion of the body below the ſaddle, is to be derived from the inſtep, and above it from the ſmall of the back. Attention muſt be paid in every particular to the rules laid down for the ſoldier's poſition on horſeback: as omiſſion in any point would prevent his ever acquiring a firm ſeat. Great care ſhould likewiſe be taken that the heels are ſunk well down, otherwiſe the balance of the body, which ought to be thrown backwards will be brought forward, when a ſudden halt is liable to diſplace the rider.

The length of the ſtirrups will be fitted to the under part of the inner ancle bone.

As in this mode of practice there are no fleugelmen, the motions are not required to be executed ſo exactly together, the object being principally to attain a correctneſs of execution, and a firm poſition on horſeback.

The different movements will at firſt be executed by word of command at a walk, and the ſquad is not to be

be made to gallop till they have acquired a confirmed ſeat, and execute their motions with ſpirit and preciſion.

When they perform in a gallop, the pace is to be regulated by order, and after every diviſion of movements to be brought from the gallop to the trot, then to the walk, and finally to be halted.

Want of exactneſs either in the poſition of individuals or the execution of the exerciſe, muſt be promptly corrected; and frequently it will be neceſſary to halt them for that purpoſe, in order to inſtruct ſeparately the perſon who may require it.

As the exerciſe in circle is ſevere for the horſes, much is left to the diſcretion and judgment of the drill officer, who is required to pay great attention in this reſpect, and particularly in the forming of heavy cavalry.

The diſtance of a horſe's length is to be preſerved between each file.

The SIX DIVISIONS *of* MOVEMENTS *Performed in Speed.*

AS ſoon as the ſquad is able to perform the exerciſe moving in circle, let them execute the ſame in ſpeed upon a right line. For which purpoſe draw the ſquad up at the extremity of a range of two hundred yards; the drill officer placing himſelf at the intermediate diſ-

tance

tance, where he will be beſt able to ſee and correct their movements.

Only one man is to perform at the ſame time, and each perſon a different diviſion of movements, till the ſix are executed, and which will be repeated till the ſquad has rode paſt as many times as may be thought requiſite. As each man concludes his diviſion of movements, he is to form at the oppoſite end of the range from whence he ſet off, and fronting the remainder of the party.

In this practice, as well as when riding in circle, particular attention is to be paid to the dragoon's poſition on horſeback.

RUNNING *at the* RING.

HAVING acquired a firm ſeat on horſeback, and correctneſs in the execution of the ſword exerciſe with the horſe in ſpeed; the next qualification requiſite, is to attain preciſion in the application of the point and the edge.

Running at the ring is adapted for the particular purpoſe of training the ſwordſman to carry his point with certainty to any given ſpace, which muſt be the reſult of repeated habit, and long practice.

The mode of practice conſiſts in giving point through a ring,

a ring, which is ſuſpended at the degree of height, which cavalry is ſuppoſed to occupy.

The ring is to be made of metal, and to meaſure in diameter five inches, the inner circle to be four inches, and the depth one quarter. This is the largeſt ſize which ought to be employed, and is only adapted to beginners, who muſt be progreſſively led in their practice from large to ſmall rings, till they are enabled to give point with tolerable degree of certainty within the diameter of a crown piece.

In order to ſuſpend the ring at the height required, a machine will be neceſſary, the particular conſtruction of which will be exemplified in plate XXII. It will anſwer the purpoſe of placing the ring in all the different directions in which it can be requiſite to apply the point.

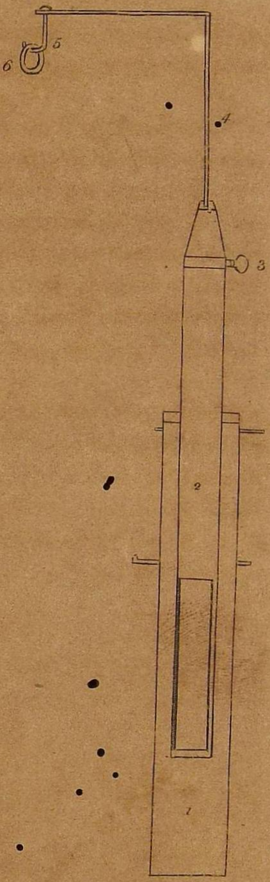
This machine, which by way of diſtinction will be termed the ring poſt, muſt be placed in a ſituation where there is a tolerable even ſurface of ſeventy yards, allowing a range of fifty, or five and fifty, yards up to the ring, and fifteen beyond it, which will be more than ſpace ſufficient to check the moſt aukward horſe.

In running at the ring, there are two things to be acquired; firſt, extreme preciſion in giving point; and ſecondly, great promptitude and dexterity in bringing the horſe to the right or left about.

The

Edge Post
View'd in Front

1 The Body
2 The Slider
3 A Brass Screw
4 Willow Twig



Ring Post
View'd in Profile

1 The Body
2 The Slider which can be fixt to any Height required
3 a Brass Screw
4 a Triangle
5 Hook to place the Ring on
6 The Ring

P. Carey Cornt. 16th. Lt. Dragns. Del.

Neele sculpt.

The perſon who is to run at the ring, will place himſelf mounted at the extremity of the range, (and when giving point to the front) oppoſite the ring.

His bit rein muſt be drawn up ſhort, keeping it firm between his fore finger and thumb, in order that he may be able to check his horſe within the ſhorteſt compaſs poſſible: he muſt be ſeated in his ſaddle with his ſword ſloped; the firſt ten paces he ought to move in a trot, and then put his horſe into a canter, taking care that he leads with his off leg, at the ſame time the rider will preſs on his ſtirrups, by ſinking the heel and ſtraitening the knee, and bring his ſword in the poſition of *prepare to guard.* As he approaches the ring, he muſt increaſe his ſpeed, ſo as to arrive at it with conſiderable rapidity; when within fifteen yards, let him bring his ſword to the poſition of the guard, and finally to that of giving point to the front the inſtant he is within diſtance to make the thruſt. This he muſt do, directing the point to the center of the circle, which by being carried elevated a little above the level of the hand, muſt neceſſarily cauſe the ring to fall down to the ſword mounting, provided the blade was properly directed.

The moment the point has been given, come to the *ſword-arm protect*;* check the horſe and bring him to the

* In an attack of cavalry, no movement can be made without being in conſequence open to a retort. It therefore muſt be an invariable rule after making an offenſive movement, to come to the protection of the part expoſed thereby. If in paſſing your antagoniſt

the right about, in order to get on the antagonist's near side before he can bring his own horse round; the advantages of which manœuvre will be obvious to persons acquainted with the principles of skirmishing.

Beginners are extremely apt to divide their attention in the direction of the blade, between the point and the ring, which, almost to a certainty, makes them fail in the proper aim, the sight being distracted between the two objects.

The mode that ought to be pursued, is to fix the attention entirely on the ring, and not to look in the least to the position of the blade, which will always follow the direction of the sight.

Whether in encountering your enemy, or in pursuing him, observe as an invariable rule, never to allow your horse to be in a line parallel with his at the instant of attack, as it would expose your horse's head unnecessarily. Therefore in receiving your antagonist on the off side, incline your horse to the left, when within the distance of a couple of yards of each other, in order that your sword-arm may meet him in a direct line. Whereas moving parallel, your horse's head would have been the first point within reach of his sabre. Upon the same principle, when in pursuit, turn your horse in

gonist, a thrust or cut is made by you on the right, come immediately after to the position of *sword-arm protect*, and look well to the rear in that direction. If the movement is made to the left, then come to the protection of the bridle-arm.

the

the oppofite direction to that in which you come up with your enemy. It will be neceffary to attend to the fame mode of advancing, when running at the ring, or in giving edge.

In giving point to the left, come with your horfe to the left about, and to the right about when giving to the right or front.

The rules laid down for running at the ring in one direction, hold good with refpect to the others, and the practice confifts in giving point againft cavalry to the front, on the off and near fides. Likewife againft infantry, as practifed at the foot-drill, with this difference, that in place of the ring, a ball formed of canvas, or cloth, and ftuffed with hay, muft be placed at the height required for foot practice.

APPLICATION *of the* EDGE.

PRECISION in the application of the edge is as neceffary, in acting againft cavalry or infantry, as of the point. It therefore is requifite to acquire correctnefs of execution by frequent practice, which in order to preferve the fwords, muft be addreffed to fubftances of the leaft refiftance. It will therefore be neceffary to eftablifh willow fticks lately cut, on the top of which place a turnip, or any other fubftance of as little refiftance,

 and

and againſt which the edge of the ſword may be directed.

It being impoſſible to furniſh in ſufficient quantities, willows of the height and ſize that are neceſſary, a machine as deſcribed in plate XXII. will be found requiſite; by means of the edge poſt, a twig of ten or twelve inches will be in length fully ſufficient for the purpoſe of practice, as it is fitted into the top of the machine, which is made to ſink, or riſe to the degree of height required. The ſame range is to be allowed for this practice, as in running at the ring. The pace is to be regulated on a ſimilar principle; firſt, trot ten paces with the ſword ſloped; then canter, riſe in the ſtirrups, and come to the *prepare*. When within twenty yards of the edge poſt, bring the ſword up to the *guard*; and make cut I. on the off-ſide as ſoon as within reach of it, at the ſame inſtant protect the ſword-arm, bring the horſe upon his haunches, and turn him to the right about.*

In like manner muſt be practiſed the ſix cuts, and the one to the rear. The former are to be applied in the directions of the off and near ſide in front.

* Until greater attention is paid in the breaking and ſuppling of horſes than is at preſent ſhewn, caution will be required in making the ſharp turns pointed out in this drill practice. It is indiſpenſably neceſſary to the ſervice of a light dragoon, that his horſe ſhould be ſupple and upon his haunches; the principle holds good with reſpect to the heavy cavalry, although the ſame rapidity of movement and exertion is not expected from their horſes.

Particular attention muſt be paid to the following inſtructions, relative to the mode of giving edge.

Let the blade be ſharpened ſix inches to the point, in order that you may be able to apply it with effect, and without this precaution, it will be difficult to judge how far the edge is carried correctly.

It ſhould be remembered that little force is requiſite to produce the effect from the application of the edge, if conducted with ſkill, and that, whether with a ſtraight ſword or ſcymitar blade, no cut can be made with effect or ſecurity, where the weapon does not at once free itſelf from the object to which it is applied; otherwiſe it muſt turn in the hand, and give a contuſion rather than a cut; for which reaſon thoſe wounds are moſt ſevere, which are made neareſt to the point.

With a ſcymitar, not more than four or five inches of the point ſhould meet your adverſary, and ſtill leſs with a ſtraight blade, whoſe conſtruction is by no means ſo well calculated for extricating itſelf.

In coming to the poſition of the guard, direct the ſword-hand to the antagoniſt's left ear, or (in drill practice) immediately to the object at which the cut is intended to be made; keeping the hand above the level of the ſhoulder: and as the hilt is to be a protection for the head, at the moment the blade is in the direction of making either a *thruſt* or *cut*, it ought never to be moved from the poſition pointed out, when acting

 againſt

againſt cavalry; and as the antagoniſt changes his ground, let the ſword-hand ſhift accordingly: But, ſhould he get round to the rear, then of courſe the guard muſt give way to the modes of protecting in that direction.

Running at the ring, and giving edge, may be practiſed together with various combinations, in order to increaſe the difficulty of execution, and thereby render the ſwordſman more expert in ſkirmiſhing. This is to be done by placing edge-poſts at different diſtances on each ſide of the range, to which the ſix cuts may be applied on the right and left, whilſt moving in ſpeed to give point.

Too much attention cannot be paid in attaining perfection in the leſſons of running at the ring, and giving edge againſt infantry and cavalry; as in theſe are united horſemanſhip, and every offenſive movement which form the baſis of ſkirmiſhing.

It is not merely the ready execution of all the offenſive and defenſive movements of this ſyſtem, as practiſed under a form of exerciſe, that will render a perſon a perfect ſwordſman. Therefore, in order to become a maſter of the ſword, it will be neceſſary to apply all its principles, by man oppoſing man, under certain limitations, in ſuch a way as to call forth every poſſible exertion of ſkill in individuals, both in what relates to horſemanſhip, and the uſe of the weapon; for which purpoſe the drill inſtructions will extend to the attack

and defence; a mode of practice the beſt adapted to thoſe ſituations on actual ſervice, in which ſoldiers are moſt likely to be engaged; as it obliges them to think for themſelves, and to act independent of each other; which on ſervice are, in a body of light troops, ineſtimable qualities. It likewiſe has the effect of training the horſes to quit the ranks readily, and the dragoons to manage them entirely with one hand; whereas at preſent, they generally employ both, unaccuſtomed as they are to manœuvre with ſwords drawn.

ATTACK *and* DEFENCE.

IT will now be proper to point out the application of thoſe movements contained in the ſix diviſions, by inſtructing the ſoldier in the principles of the attack and defence, and ſhewing him the different points of attack, and the retort to be made under the local ſituation of each movement, for which purpoſe he is to be ſeated on his horſe, and to remain ſtationary, in order to receive the attack of the drill officer, who will walk round him, making the different movements offenſive, repeating, at the ſame time, the poſitions requiſite to be adopted for defence, which repetition may be omitted as ſoon as the eye and execution of the dragoon are ſufficiently quick to render it unneceſſary.

 He

He is to be trained equally to attack, as to defend, and as ſoon as a ſquad is formed, they may be drawn up in two ranks, in order that the rear and front rank men may attack each other alternately, after which the practice will extend to the attack and defence in ſpeed.

At the beginning the drill officer will find it difficult to enforce a correct execution of the guards and cuts, it being frequently a fault with beginners to forget the principles of drill practice, the moment the attention becomes divided; for which reaſon more than uſual care muſt be taken, to ſee that there is no deviation from the ſyſtem, which requires the arm to be kept perfectly ſtraight, in order that the wriſt alone may act. The edge to be correctly carried, and the protects made with the thumb ſo placed as to oppoſe the back of the blade to the movements of the antagoniſt.

Whenever a regiment is perfectly formed to the uſe of the ſword, all practice in the modes of attack and defence may be executed with the flat and back of the blade in place of the edge. But in the firſt inſtance, it will be requiſite for the men to be inſtructed to carry the edge, for which reaſon the blades of a corps may be preſerved by appropriating a certain number of ſwords to be made uſe of alone at the drill.

If men are taught in early practice to carry correctly the edge in performing the ſix cuts, there is little danger of their being miſled by their applying the flat of the blade in the attack, particularly as the practice they

muſt

muſt neceſſarily have in running at the edge poſt, will be ſufficient to confirm them in the means of carrying an edge whenever it is requiſite to do ſo; however ſhould any perſon be found ſufficiently aukward to require his being brought back to the drill practice, to become correct in giving edge, it can eaſily be done.

Attack and Defence in Line.

OFFENSIVE.	DEFENSIVE.
Cut I. at the horſe's head on the near ſide.	The defence is, near ſide protect.
Cut II. at the horſe's head on the off ſide.	Horſe, off ſide protect.
Cut I. at the adverſary's face off ſide. Parry cut III. by ſink- the guard.	Left protect, and return cut III. at the antagoniſt's wriſt.
Cut I. at the thigh or body on the off ſide. Parry cut VI. by the right protect.	Right protect, reſting the hilt of the ſword on the knee, when return cut VI. at the adverſary's neck.
Make cut I. at the ſword arm.	Come to the ſword-arm protect.

Cut

OFFENSIVE.	DEFENSIVE.
Cut II. at the bridle-arm from the rear.	Bridle-arm protect.
Give point at the back, near ſide.	Left parry.*
Cut I. at the back of the head, near ſide.	Left protect.
Cut II. at the face, near ſide.	Right protect.
Cut I. at the horſe's head, on the near ſide.	Horſe near ſide protect, and as the adverſary moves forward, return cut VI. at his ſword-arm, at the ſame time preſs your horſe up to his near ſide and give him the point, by which the attack is changed, and he in his turn becomes on the defenſive.

It is to be underſtood that every movement from whichſoever quarter it may proceed, is made immediately from the poſition preceding it, without firſt coming to the guard between the motions.

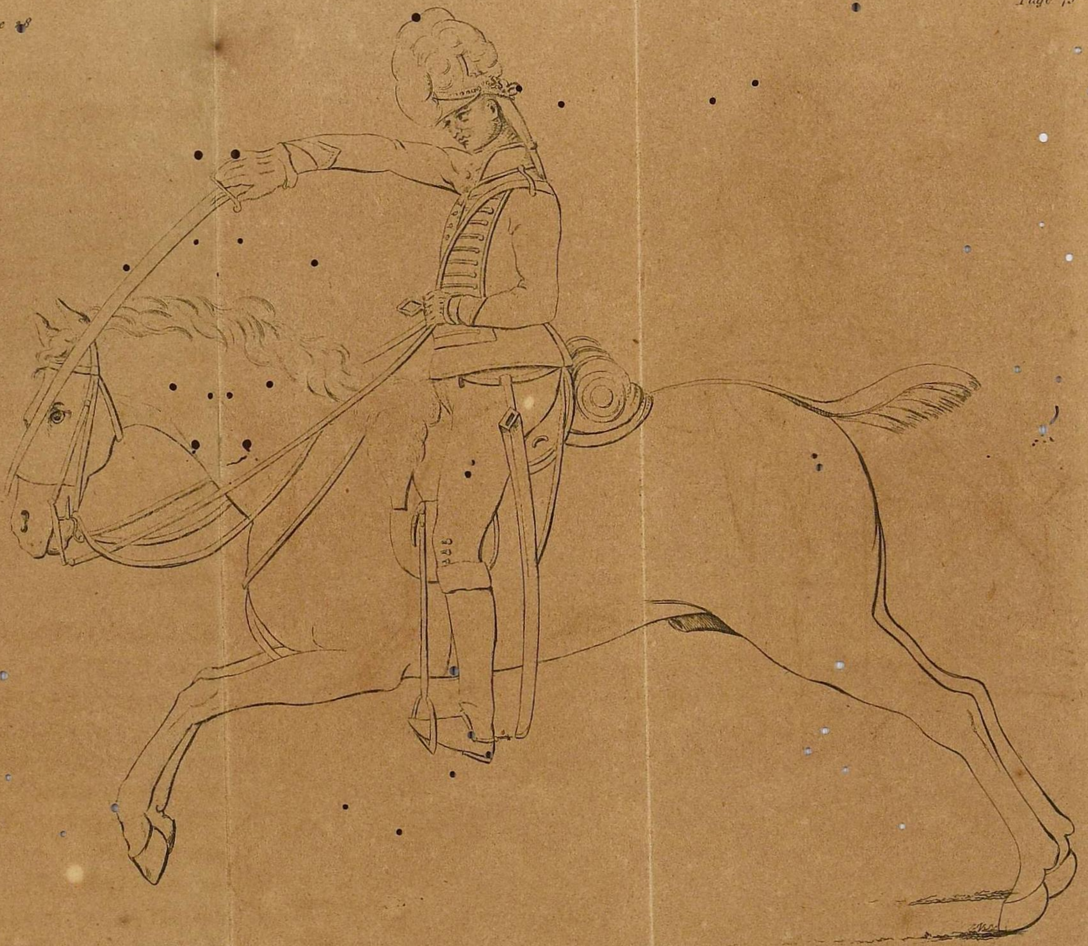
* Upon the firſt motion of giving point being made by the adverſary, drop from the bridle-arm protect to the poſition requiſite for parrying.

Neele sculp.

Thigh Protect

Neele sculp.

Left Parry.



Horse near Side Protect

Neele sculp.t

Pursuit on the Near Side.

To be executed first in a Walk, and finally in Speed.

ATTACK.	DEFENCE.
Guard.	Bridle-arm protect.
Right give point at the small of the back.	Left parry.
Cut I. at the back of the head.	Left protect, near side.
Cut II. at the face.	Right protect, near side.
Cut I. at the horse's head on the near side.	Horse near side protect.

After parrying the cut directed at the horse's head on the near side, return cut VI. at the antagonist's sword-arm, pressing your horse at the same instant up to the adversary's near side, and give him point, which places him in his turn on the defensive, when the same movements are to be repeated, as each alternately becomes the pursuer. The person pursued must be attentive in checking the pace of his horse, in order to enable his pursuer to come easily up with him, otherwise the object of practice would be frustrated, and in place of its being a lesson of instruction, it would be a trial of speed between the horses.

PART III.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION IN CLASSES.

THE whole of the *Drill Inſtructions* are to be communicated to each perſon of the ſquad individually, for which reaſon it is neceſſary to eſtabliſh *Claſſes*, and *Degrees of progreſs in each Claſs*, into which men are to be removed according to the proficiency they make in the exerciſe.

There are to be three claſſes, and in each claſs three degrees of progreſs.

THE FIRST *(or youngeſt)* CLASS compriſes the inſtructions neceſſary to the foot drill, which are divided as follows:

1ſt Degree. The Cuts.

2d Degree. The guards and cuts performed according to drill practice.

3d Degree. The ſword exerciſe performed by word of command and fleugelmen.

THE SECOND CLASS directs the exerciſe on horſe-back.

1ſt Degree. Conſiſts in the opening of ranks, taking diſtances of files, and performing the ſword exerciſe in line.

2d Degree. The exerciſe moving in circle.

3d Degree. The exerciſe performed in ſpeed.

THE THIRD CLASS is a general application of the whole ſyſtem.

1ſt Degree. Running at the ring and giving edge.

2d Degree. The attack and defence in line.

3d Degree. The attack and defence in ſpeed.

DIRECTIONS *to be obſerved with reſpect to the* DRILLS.

THE moſt active men, and beſt riders of a regiment, are to be firſt inſtructed in the ſword exerciſe, without regard to their being non-commiſſioned officers or not.

As

As in the 1ſt and 2d degree of the firſt claſs, inſtruction is to be given individually to each perſon of the ſquad; the ſquads are never to exceed in number ſix men; but in order that a regiment may be formed with the leaſt delay, ſquad officers muſt be provided in proportion to the exertion intended, which may be readily done by means of keeping a conſtant ſucceſſion in the *degrees of the firſt claſs*, upon the principle of compound multiplication.

The following mode of employing *three men of a ſquad*, the moſt forward in each degree, is therefore to be followed.

The *firſt man of a ſquad*, who acquires a correct execution of the ſix cuts, is to be immediately appointed to begin the inſtruction of *three others of the regiment.*

The *ſecond man* to inſtruct *two.*

The *third man* to inſtruct *one.*

They are to be kept thus employed until the remaining *three* men of their original ſquad are completed in the *1ſt degree*; the whole ſix (being the original ſquad) will then be removed to the degree following, leaving ſix others of their own training far advanced in their knowledge of the ſix cuts, and among whom one man will always be found capable of inſtructing the reſt of the ſquad.

Upon

Upon the ſame principle are the 2d and 3d degrees of inſtruction to be conveyed, by which means the *three men moſt advanced* of each degree will be conſtantly bringing forward double their number, whilſt the aukward men of their reſpective ſquads are attaining the ſame degree of knowledge with themſelves.

A regiment having the foundation of *ten formed ſwordſmen* will enter on the inſtruction of *ſixty*, which ſixty men, according to the aforeſaid ſyſtem of progreſſive drilling, will have inſtructed the like number by the time they are themſelves required to mount.

The inſtructions contained in the firſt claſs muſt be perſevered in with as little interruption as poſſible; the rudiments being eaſily forgotten, if not cloſely attended to; for which reaſon, men of the *firſt claſs* ſhould be exempted from all duties of *fatigue* and *drill*, which might otherwiſe interfere with their hours of practice.

The ſame unremitting attention is not neceſſary with reſpect to the other claſſes.

Ten *days* will complete men in the *firſt claſs*—allowing them to be drilled morning and evening, two hours each time.

The ſecond claſs will require a fortnight to perfect them for the third claſs, adhering to three hours drill per day.

The third claſs ſhould be perfectly completed in a fortnight more, by two hours drill per day only.

PART

PART IV.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

AT a review or inſpection of a regiment of cavalry, the exerciſe of the ſword is (after the regiment has marched paſt and formed) to precede the evolutions, and is compriſed in the following movements.

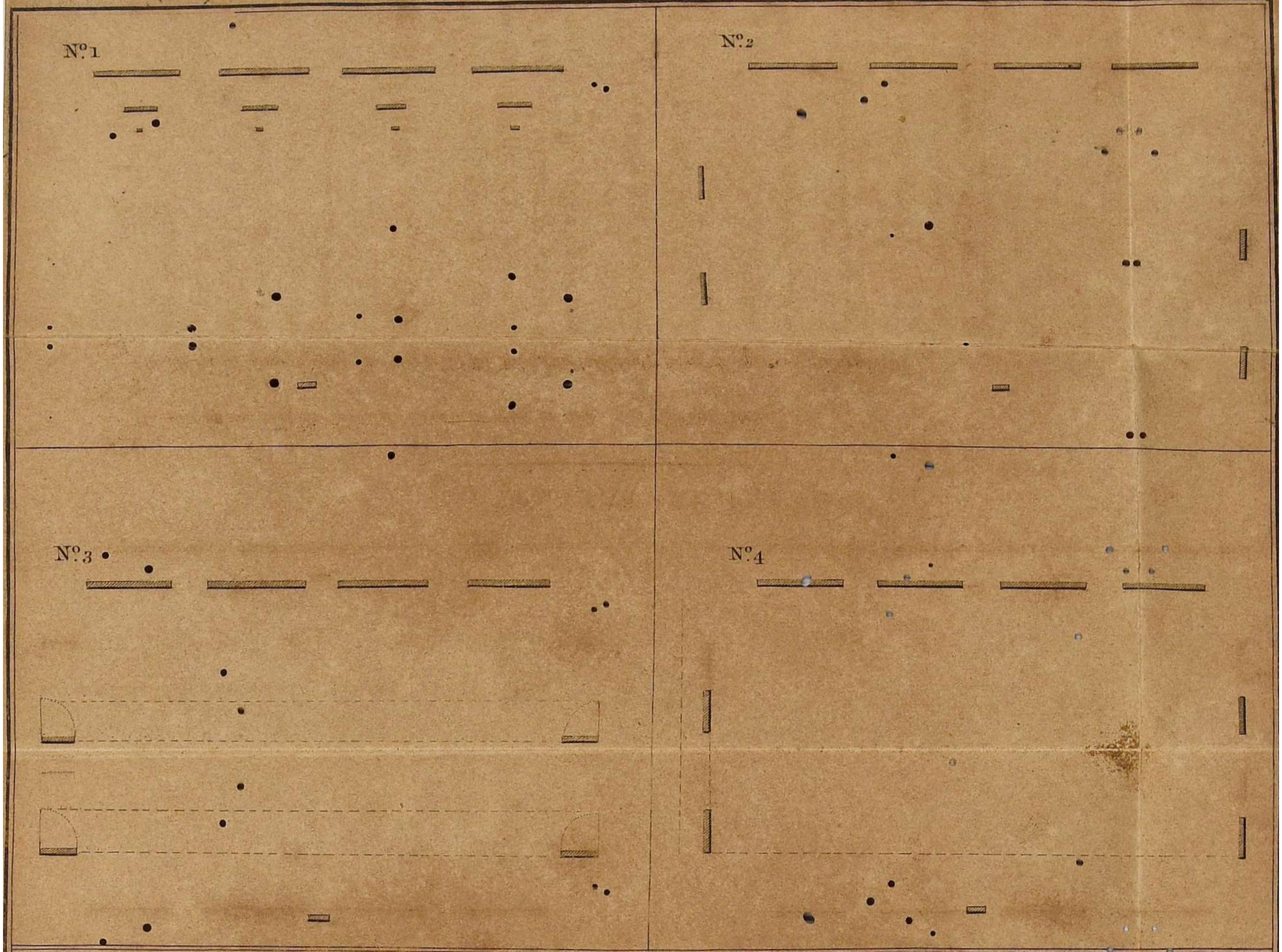
I. *The Six Diviſions performed in Line.*

II. *The Six Diviſions in Speed.*

III. *The Attack and Defence in Line.*

IV. *The Attack and Defence in Speed.*

THE ſword exerciſe performed in line will be executed by the whole regiment, and the other movements by only one diviſion from each ſquadron.



EXPLANATORY PLATE

N.° 1

The Reg.t in line with the divisions formed in front of their respective Squadrons.

N.° 2

The Divisions formed upon the flanks of the Regim.t in order to perform the Exercise in Speed.

N.° 3

The Divisions wheel inwards forming two Lines. The dots represent the Front being extended, and ranks opened, for the attack, and defence in line.

N.° 4

The divisions formed for attack, & defence in Speed. The dotted line represents the filing off in the attack.

I. *The* SIX DIVISIONS *performed in* LINE.

IT is not neceſſary herein to ſpecify the words of command, requiſite to be given in order to put a regiment through the exerciſe; as the opening of ranks, and doubling of files, are according to the mode laid down in the drill practice, and the whole being executed by fleugelman, the commanding officer will have only to particularize each diviſion of movement, after which he will form up the doubling files, and cloſe ranks.

II. *The* SIX DIVISIONS *in* SPEED.

Words of Command.	
Diviſions, to the front form.	THE ranks being cloſed, the diviſions are to be formed by thoſe men, who are previouſly appointed in each ſquadron, moving forward
March.	on the word *march*, forming at three horſes lengths in front of their reſpective ſquadrons, and dreſſing by the right.

In order to perform the exerciſe in ſpeed, it will be requiſite to form the four diviſions in two lines on each flank of the regiment, with the whole fronting inwards. The two diviſions of the left wing will be drawn up oppoſite to the intervals of the diviſions upon the right,

and one ſubaltern will accompany each diviſion. The range between the two lines ſhould not be leſs than one hundred and fifty yards, and the diſtances of the diviſions ſufficiently great, to guard againſt any poſſibility of the oppoſing parties riding againſt each other.

Words of Command.

Ranks by threes wheel outwards.

March.

The diviſions being formed in front of the line and told off in ranks by threes, the commanding officer will direct them to wheel outwards, and upon the word *march*, the two diviſions of the right wing will wheel to the right, and thoſe of the left in the oppoſite direction.

Halt, Dreſs.
March.
Trot.

As ſoon as they are halted, they will again get the words *march* and *trot*, on which they will trot off beyond the flanks of the regiment, and wheel into their new alinement.

As each diviſion arrives on its ground, it is to halt, and wait for the commanding officer's order to wheel up.

Wheel up.

Halt, dreſs.

When thus formed, the diviſion of the third ſquadron will be oppoſite the interval of the two right diviſions, with the fourth diviſion upon its left.

On

Words of Command.	
Perform the six divisions of movements in speed.	On receiving the caution to perform in speed, the right and left file of the front rank will move forwards a horse's length in front of their respective divisions, to be in readiness to spring forward upon the division being specified*; at the same time the flanks are to be kept complete, by passaging from the center of the rank.
First division.	The advanced files of each division will have their horses well in hand, and at the word *Division*, move forward at an easy gallop, increasing their speed gradually: each file is to direct his horse in a right line to the front. Those of the right wing, on arriving at the extremity of the range, will form to the rear of the third and fourth divisions, whilst those of the left wing will form in the intervals; by which means, when the exercise is completed, the four divisions will be immediately opposite each other†.

* As the divisions are to be performed in rotation, the trumpet may be substituted for the word of command.

† The officers will accompany the last file of their divisions upon all occasions.

Attention

Words of Command.

Attention muſt be paid to regulate the time requiſite between each motion, according to the extent of ground, as every diviſion of movement ſhould begin and conclude at the oppoſite extremity of the range.

The whole are executed according to the directions given for performing the firſt diviſion.

III. *The* ATTACK *and* DEFENCE *in* LINE.

As ſoon as the ſword exerciſe has been performed in ſpeed, the commanding officer will wheel the diviſions inwards, in order to attack and defend in line.

Diviſions, Wheel inwards.

March.

Halt. Dreſs.

On the word *march*, the diviſions will wheel, forming two lines fronting the general; the dreſſing will finally be by the right, it will then be requiſite to extend the front of each diviſion for the purpoſe of giving the neceſſary diſtance between the files; therefore

On

Words of Command.	
To the center extend your front. March.	on being directed to extend the front, the inner flank files will turn their horſes fronting inwards, and on the word *march*, move forward at an eaſy gallop, to the center of the range, and inſtantly form up, the files taking their diſtance from the ſtanding flank; the rear rank men will keep with their front files, and cover them exactly when formed: The diviſions are to dreſs by the right, forming two lines, one in the rear of the other.
Rear ranks by files, to the right about turn. March.	The rear rank will be put to the right about in order to take the diſtance of four horſes lengths to the rear.
Forwards. Halt, front.	The rear files will preſerve their diſtances in marching to the rear, ſo as to cover their front rank men when fronted.
Attack and defence of the front line.	From this period the ſecond line is to ſtand faſt till the front has gone through the whole attack and defence, and is again wheeled back to its former ground.

The

Words of Command.	
Rear ranks, March.	The rear rank will be in readiness to move forward; and on the word *march* being given will advance in line at a walk, directing their horses to the near side of their front rank men.
Prepare to guard.	The whole of both ranks will come to the *prepare*, on receiving the word to do so from the commanding officer, who will give it when within the distance of six yards from each other, and they are to be brought immediately afterwards to the *guards* applicable to their respective situations.
Guard.	On being ordered to guard, the rear rank will guard to the front, and the front files come to the protection of their bridle arms.—The attack is to commence as in pursuit, by the rear rank giving point on the near side, when they will execute the different offensive and defensive movements pointed out in drill practice for the near side, and likewise those of the off-side, as far as cut I.* at the sword-arm, which being par-

* See page 73.

ried,

Words of Command. ried, cut VI. is to be returned at the ſword-arm of the rear files, who are to retire guarding themſelves in that direction, at the diſtance of a horſe's length, before they ſlope ſwords. When the rear rank arrives on its former ground it will halt, and wait for the word to come about.

*Files about**. Both ranks will go to the right about, at which time the front files will face each other.

Front rank, March. The front rank will move to the attack of their rear rank men, directing their horſes to the off ſide.

At the diſtance pointed out in the former attack, both ranks will

Prepare to guard. Guard. be brought to the *prepare to guard*, and then the *Guard*.

The attacking of the rear rank is to commence with cut II. at the horſe's head on the off ſide, when all the movements in which they have already been inſtructed, are are to be correctly executed, con-

* By ſingle files to the right about.

cluding

Words of Command.	
	cluding with making cut I. on the near ſide at the horſe, and receiving cut VI. at the ſword-arm. The front rank will then retire guarding the ſword-arm, till at the diſtance of a horſe's length, when they will come to the poſition of ſlope ſwords, and halt as ſoon as arrived on their ground.
Rear rank take cloſe order. *March.*	The attack and defence of the firſt line being ended, the rear rank will be moved up, and the files cloſed.
Cloſe your files. *March.*	The diviſions will cloſe to their outward flanks, in order to be wheeled up to their former front.
Threes about, *Wheel outwards.* *March.* *Halt, front.*	

The ſecond line is in its turn to attack and defend, which being done, the files are to be cloſed, the diviſions wheeled up on their own ground and fronted, dreſſing by thoſe of the firſt line, where they will be ready to commence their attack in ſpeed.

IV. *The*

IV. *The* ATTACK *and* DEFENCE *in* SPEED.

THE attack and defence in ſpeed will conſiſt of the diviſions filing ſucceſſively paſt the general; the front and rear files attacking and defending alternately, which having done, they will return by the rear of the regiment to their places in ſquadron.

Words of Command.

ON receiving the order to attack and defend in ſpeed; the firſt diviſion of the right wing will file from its left by two's, the rear file commencing the attack on the front file, according to the mode pointed out in drill practice.

Right wing, by your left attack and defend.

March.

They are to move at a pace rather exceeding half ſpeed, taking care to ride in a right line to the oppoſite end of the range, where the attack will ceaſe; their ſwords are immediately to be ſloped, the files to dreſs, and at a gentle trot wheel round the right flank of the regiment to their places in ſquadron. The files will ſucceed

each

Words of Command.

each other at the diſtance of five horſes lengths, till both diviſions of the right wing have ſucceſſively rode paſt the General.

Attention muſt be paid, that they all move off from the ſame ground, which is pointed out by the leading files.

Left wing, by your right attack and defend.

March.

The diviſions of the left wing will file off from the right, and are in their turn to obſerve the rules laid down for the diviſions preceding, with this difference, that as their courſe is to be left, they will wheel round the left wing of the regiment to their places in ſquadron.

J. G. L. M.

F I N I S.